

Upcoming Events

Community Arts and Crafts Class
Feb. 2, 6-8 p.m.
Jet Stream Casino
Pauls Valley, Okla.
(580) 622-7142

Pop Art Painting with Acrylics
Feb. 3, 3-6 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 272-7781

Silk Painting Class
Feb. 4, 10 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

Beaded Earrings Class
Feb. 4, 1-3 p.m.
Chickasaw Capitol
Tishomingo, Okla.
(580) 272-3351

Love Stories and Valentine Workshop
Feb. 9, 5 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada, Okla.
(580) 272-5520

Valentine's Day Canvas Paint
Feb. 11, 10 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-7781

Seussical
Feb. 13, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
McSwain Theatre
Ada
(580) 272-5520

GOURDget Class
Feb. 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-7781

Silk Painting Class
Feb. 18, 10 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

Yaakni Appiisachi Hiking Day Camp
Feb. 20, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Kullihoma
(580) 272-5456

Coffee and Careers
Feb. 21, Noon -5:30 p.m.
Carl Albert Service Center
Ada
(580) 310-6447

GOURDget Class
Feb. 21, 2-4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

Hand Sewn Blouse Workshop
Feb. 24, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery and Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-7781

National Tell a Fairytale Day
Brown Bag Lunch
Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-7781

Basket Weaving Class
Feb. 21, 1-3 p.m.
Council House Museum
Tishomingo
(580) 371-3351

Chickasaw Times



Online

Wintersmith Park in Ada

South Eastern Oklahoma Heart Walk Feb. 11

ADA, Okla. - Two health executives will co-chair Ada's first Oklahoma Heart Walk 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.

Chickasaw Nation Under-Secretary of Tribal and Community Health Chris Anoatubby is joined by Mercy Hospital Ada President Lori Wightman to host the 2017 South Eastern Oklahoma Heart Walk in Wintersmith Park.

The walk calls attention to heart disease and stroke, the No. 1 and No. 4 killers of Oklahomans. The Heart Walk promotes physical activity and heart-healthy living.

More importantly, the walk raises funds to support local medical research, education and community outreach programs through the American Heart Association. The group currently funds \$3.5 million in research projects in Oklahoma.

The Feb. 11 event is free to participants. Registration fees will not be collected and sign-in is not required.

Contributions are raised by

participants recruiting co-workers, friends and family to sponsor their walk with donations. Additionally, walkers do not compete against each other. Routes are one mile and three miles. A Kids Heart Challenge obstacle course, for ages 5-12, will be featured immediately after the walk.

Officials said interested individuals may:

- Start a Heart Walk Team. Teams may sign up at www.southeasternoklahomahheartwalk.org. Build your team, seek sponsorships from friends, family,

and businesses and have a great time helping others Feb. 11.

- Walk as an individual. To walk as an individual and help raise funds, join as an individual at www.southeasternoklahomahheartwalk.org.

- Volunteer. Officials said there were plenty of opportunities to help set up the event, assist with the walk and then help tear down after the event.

To volunteer, go to the same website. You may also get more information by visiting the web site.



Chickasaw composer tabbed for orchestral residency



Chickasaw classical composer Jerod Tate in his Oklahoma City studio.

OKLAHOMA CITY - Chickasaw classical composer Jerod 'Impichchaachaaha' Tate and South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO) have agreed to a three-year residency linking composer and orchestra in a nationwide Music Alive program created by New Music USA.

"Mr. Tate has already played an integral role in the SDSO *Lakota Music Project* and this new partnership will allow the orchestra to impact the communities we serve in even more significant ways," SDSO conductor and mu-

sic director Delta David Gier said.

The big picture involves children, Indian Country, musical and instructional collaborative consultation with top musicians from around the nation. The program is designed to create beautiful symphonic music while training children to compose or spark musical talent.

"I am so excited to be a part of this and so grateful our 2012 *Lakota Music Project* left such a positive impact," Mr. Tate said of his original work featuring the Lakota language. "It was a com-

missioned composition for baritone and orchestra. Everyone just knocked it out of the ballpark. It was magnificent."

When SDSO learned of potential grants from the League of American Orchestras and New Music USA as part of *Music Alive* it was on the phone to Mr. Tate immediately to see if a residency was possible. Mr. Tate leapt at the opportunity but first had to pass muster with those in charge of grant appropriations.

The most important elements considered were Mr. Tate's own achievements and accolades. He is one of approximately a half-dozen classical music composers with Indian heritage. He has earned an Emmy award. Mr. Tate's critically-acclaimed original compositions, featuring tribal languages, have been performed by a number of orchestras throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Mr. Tate compares the new residency to the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy, only on a larger scale. During the summer program, he shared his expertise and compositional skills with young Chickasaw talent.

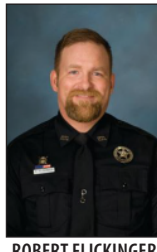
"This opportunity gives me the ability to tell a Lakota student 'you can do this'," Mr. Tate said. "It is about learning and devel-

Lighthouse officer to be honored on Memorial Wall

Since its inception in 1991, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., has honored over 20,000 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

On May 13 a local hero's name will be added to that honored list.

Chickasaw Lighthouse Police Special Agent Robert Patrick Flickinger was 37 years old when he was killed in an automobile accident in 2008 while on duty in Marshall County, Oklahoma.



ROBERT FLICKINGER

Cheyenne Williams, Mr. Flickinger's daughter, said her father was more than a great role model.

"He was a great father, my hero, my best friend and everything I aspired to be in life," Mrs. Williams said. "He was a single dad, so it was just him and me and we were very close. We did so many things together."

Those things included more than the traditional outdoor activities one might expect from a macho lawman. This dad engaged in activities that demonstrated great sensitivity to his little daughter.

"He played dress up and tea parties," she said. "But he also took me hunting and fishing."

Nor was her father's love limited to the home.

"He cared so much for the community," Mrs. Williams said. "He had the biggest heart. His love and kindness at home and to anyone he met was admirable. He always had a smile on his face and his laugh was contagious."

Agent Flickinger began his career with the Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police Department in 2004. In 2007 he was promoted to special agent assigned to work in narcotics enforcement. He was also a member of both the Lighthouse Police Scuba-Dive Team and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team.

He had 16 years in law enforcement, was a U.S. Navy veteran and a graduate of the FBI National Academy where he earned the coveted Yellow Brick Road award. He studied criminology at Southeastern Oklahoma State University where he maintained 4.0 grade point average that earned him a spot in the National Honor Society.

Agent Flickinger attended the Assembly of God Church in Madill, Okla., where he was an active member of the Praise Team and

SEE FLICKINGER, PAGE 2

Register now for Dynamic Women event

SULPHUR, Okla. - Registration forms are now available for the 2017 Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference, April 27-28, at the Artesian Hotel & Spa in Sulphur.

The conference and forum recognize the strength and leadership of Chickasaw women from all walks of life and salute their valuable contributions, talents and skills.

The event is hosted by Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities.

To fill out a registration form visit, Chickasaw.net/Dynamic-Women.

Deadline to register is March 31.

For more information, contact Paul Baken with Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or paul.baken@chickasaw.net.

Ada artist wins Dynamic Women butterfly contest

Eighteen-year-old Chickasaw citizen Madelyn Littlefield, of Ada, Okla., is the Chickasaw Nation Butterfly Art Contest winner for this year's Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference.

A panel of judges chose Ms. Littlefield's artwork from the art submitted to Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities.

Ms. Littlefield is a self-taught artist who finds inspiration from music, art and love. Her dream is to attend an art school, and to one day write, illustrate and publish a successful children's book.

"This piece was greatly inspired by the beautiful Red



MADELYN LITTLEFIELD

Lacewing butterfly," Ms. Littlefield said. "The females exhibit vibrant colors as a portrait of beauty, as well as danger to predators. The richness of this butterfly's appearance, as well as its symbolism of strength, reminds us of our powerful, elegant and gorgeous Chickasaw."

She thanks her family, Stephen and Teeoti Littlefield, Julie Tillar, Randy Humphrey and Joseph and Lindsey Hagan-Zertuche for their love and support. She also thanks the Chickasaw Nation for this wonderful opportunity.

The winning butterfly logo is used in all artwork and promotional materials for the 2017 Dy-



Featured butterfly artwork for the 2017 Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference, by Madelyn Littlefield.

namic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference.

For more information on the Dynamic Woman of the Chickasaw Nation Conference, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Kristen Gill, Public Affairs.

Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes

Leaders seek preservation of Indian health care, suggest Indian Affairs pick

THACKERVILLE, Okla. - During its January 13 general session, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes called on President-elect Donald Trump to appoint a Cherokee citizen Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Jana McKeag, who has more than 40 years of experience working with tribal governments, is being considered for the post within the Department of Interior. Ms. McKeag has worked with federal agencies and practices law specializing in issues facing Indian Country. Among her areas of expertise are tribal economic development, education and tribal sovereignty.

Ms. McKeag has served as National Indian Gaming Commissioner, Director of Native American Programs for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and as National Congress of American Indians Education Director. The Council noted Ms. McKeag has the support of several Oklahoma Congressional members.

Ten other resolutions were passed by Council voting authorities representing the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee and Seminole Nations.

They included:

- Urging Congress to preserve the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) and Indian-specific provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed in 2010. Republicans have advanced bills to repeal the ACA - more commonly referred to as "Obamacare" - but the Council said the IHCIA was "cornerstone legisla-

tion which provides health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives in fulfillment of the federal government's trust responsibilities" to Native Americans. The resolution also stated Indian-specific provisions of the ACA are integral to the effective performance of the Indian health system.

- A formal request to President-elect Trump to appoint Bo Leach, a Choctaw citizen, to the position of U.S. Marshal. Mr. Leach is assistant special agent in charge of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. He has more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement.

- Supporting the appointment of Choctaw citizen Robert Trent Shores as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma. Mr. Shores has worked as an assistant in the office more than nine years and has over 20 years of service in a variety of roles within government.

- Citing more than a century of support by the federal government to protect Native American antiquities, cultural, sacred and burial sites, the Council called upon tribes across the country to enact tribal legislation to protect significant sites on tribally-owned property.

- Calling upon the incoming Trump administration and Congress to "protect funding for federal programs that support Indian Country and fully fund all of the government's trust responsibilities to Indigenous people."

- Supporting the Oklahoma Attorney General in a lawsuit defending the amended American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act of 1974. The Attorney General has been sued in his official capacity to enjoin enforcement of the act, which prohibits artists who are not members of a federally-recognized tribe from selling artwork labeled as "American Indian-made." The resolution

states support for the Attorney General is intended to "preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our five nations to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of Indian people."

- Formally requesting a meeting with President-elect Trump. The Council said a "variety of topics (of) concern exist" and should be discussed with the incoming president. "We must continue to move our nations forward and work with (the) new administration," the resolution stated.

- Supporting the nomination of Dr. Charles W. Grim, a Cherokee citizen, as Director of the U.S. Indian Health Service (IHS). Dr. Grim is a retired assistant surgeon general and rear admiral in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Services. Additionally, Dr. Grim served as IHS director from 2002-07.

- Urging the Department of Interior to maintain past policy and practice where tribal enrollment and registration continue to be allowable "indirect cost" to tribes. The Council pointed out the significant cost associated with determining and verifying tribal enrollment and citizenship that was once reimbursed to tribes. The policy was changed without consultation with tribal officials. Prior to 2014, tribes were reimbursed for those costs.



Leaders of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes presided over last week's meeting held at Winstar World Casino. They are, from left, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby; Muscogee (Creek) Second Chief Louis Hicks; Seminole Nation Chief Leonard Harjo; Cherokee Nation Chief Bill John Baker; and Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton. Combined, the leaders represent close to 680,000 Native American citizens. Photo provided.

Artesian Arts Fest extends call for Native artists

SULPHUR, Okla. - Applications are now being accepted from Native American artists for the 2017 Artesian Arts Festival.

The annual festival is set for Saturday, May 27 in Sulphur.

Native artists may apply and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Application deadline is Friday, Feb 24.

Open to artists from all federally-recognized tribes, artists will compete in a juried competition in as many as 21 categories.

Artists must be at least age 18 and present documentation of citizenship in a federally-recognized tribe.

Up to 100 Native artists will be accepted for the festival.

Cash awards will be awarded for first, second and third in each category, and "Best of Show."

Hosted by the Chickasaw Nation and in its fourth year, the Artesian Arts Festival is a community celebration of all forms of art, with an emphasis on Native American art and artists.

The festival features diverse art media and a variety of visual art including paintings, basketry, jewelry, sculpture, metalworking, bead work, textiles and pottery.

A wide variety of musical entertainment, tribal dance demonstrations, art talks and food vendors is also planned.

Open to the public at no charge, the Artesian Arts Festival welcomed more than 5,500 visitors to last year's festival. Artists from 10 states and representing a wide variety of tribes participated.

The festival takes place at the Artesian Plaza, adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and Spa, 1001 W. First Street, Sulphur.

Application forms, entry rules and information can be found on the Chickasaw Nation website at chickasaw.net/Services/Artesian-Arts-Festival.aspx or by contacting Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5525 or email artistinfo@chickasaw.net.

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FLICKINGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Young Adult Class.

Then-Lighthorse Police Chief Jason O'Neal said the Chickasaw Nation and Oklahoma lost a hero with Agent Flickinger's passing.

"He considered it an honor to serve his community and is dearly missed," Chief O'Neal said.

"Agent Flickinger accomplished his goal of being a positive role model to his daughter and his community."

"Throughout the past eight years, I never thought he would be recognized for the hero he truly was," Mrs. Williams said.

"But when that day came, I had no words, only tears of joy. I just wish my children could have met him."

Mrs. Williams' older son, six-year-old Colton, wants to be a policeman just like his grandpa. Her younger son, four-year-old Jesse Ray, loves him very much even though he never met him.

"Our family (including husband Jessie Williams, a sheriff's deputy in Hawkins County, Tennessee) will attend the May 2017 ceremony," she said.

Son Colton, she said, would be wearing his little police uniform.

"I'm just so glad they get to experience this," she said.

CONTRIBUTED BY Lone' Beasley, Media Relations.

THE CHICKASAW NATION ARTS & HUMANITIES DIVISION PRESENTS

VALENTINE'S DAY CANVAS PAINT

Feb. 11, 2017

10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m.

Two sites offered:

Arts & Humanities Division Building
201 N. Broadway Ave.
Ada, Oklahoma

ARTesian Gallery & Studios
100 W. Muskogee St.
Sulphur, Oklahoma

\$10 fee includes attendance and all materials. Art instructors will be on site to offer guidance.

For more information, call the arts & humanities division at (580) 272-5520.

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Opportunities are before us, and our future is limitless

The future of the Chickasaw Nation looks fantastic! It's exciting to be part of our tribe's tremendous growth. We have been blessed with a number of opportunities that have "supercharged" our growth. That growth has led to expansion of essential programs, services and initiatives that serve Chickasaw people.

We understand the opportunities before us take time to mature. We know proper execution by those of us who serve you is very important. Creating a workable plan is essential. It is equally important to make the all-important commitment to see the plan all the way to completion.

At the Chickasaw Nation, we operate with a strategic plan. This plan contains goals – the big things we want to achieve over time to make our tribe stronger. Strategies typically reflect the way we do things, rather than some specific project.

One of our tribal strategic objectives is to be vigilant in our use of resources. The objective is an element that will impact the entire tribal organization. It is obviously a good idea to make the best use of resources provided. Next, we must break down the objective so it can be translated into action by the various tribal departments.

The first part of this objective states "Chickasaw Nation employees will practice good stewardship by ensuring resources are being used in a manner that ensures maximum benefit. The Chickasaw Nation will work to-



GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

Governor,
The Chickasaw
Nation

We are continually seeking new sources of funding, whether federal, private, commercial or other. Regarding growth, there is never a stopping point. As in any busi-

ness, the environment can change, and it can change rapidly. Sales can go up and down, and income which may have come from one source last year may have to be replaced with a new source this year.

It is highly important that all our tribal workers remember the Chickasaw Nation is continually working to expand its financial independence. We are a long way down that road, but we must not take our success for granted. That means we must not only be good stewards of what we have, we must be always searching for new financial opportunities. New businesses, new partnerships, new initiatives are constantly under review. Our drive for robust financial independence means we make our own decisions as a tribal government, and we continually seek to fulfill our tribal mission by focusing on improving the lives of the Chickasaw people.

Our strategic objectives take time, but they are definitely the right things to do. A five- to 10-year time horizon is not unusual. I am committed to seeing each of our objectives in place, and our tribe always "on the grow."

New opportunities present themselves to us on virtually a daily basis. Some aren't really appropriate for us, but some stand out. Those latter opportunities are the ones we pursue. By keeping our strategic objectives in mind, we can assess the opportunities before us and make the right decisions – the decisions that will most benefit the Chickasaw people we serve.

Chickasaw Cultural Center Three Sisters celebration March 13-19

SULPHUR, Okla. - The Chickasaw Cultural Center will host the Three Sisters Celebration, March 13-19.

This annual event celebrates the changing of the seasons, when vital crops like squash, corn and beans take root. These crops are known collectively as the Three Sisters.

Free activities include storytelling, cultural crafts, traditional games, stomp dancing, films and more.

Visitors can also learn more about the Three Sisters and Chickasaws' connection to nature with horticultural tours, cultural demonstrations or a stroll through the butterfly gardens.

While on campus, experience the "Aapisa' Nachi Exhibit, A Native American Nachi (Quilt) Exhibit," now on display in Aapisa' Art Gallery.

For more information, visit www.chickasawculturalcenter.com.



The butterfly garden at the Chickasaw Cultural Center is near the Three Sisters area on the grounds. During the Three Sisters celebration, visitors can also join in National Learn About Butterflies Day March 14 at the cultural center.

‘Coffee & Careers’ set for Feb. 21

Chickasaw citizens seeking careers with the Chickasaw Nation are invited to attend the Coffee and Careers hiring event from noon to 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21 at the Carl Albert Service Center, 1001 N. Country Club Road in Ada.

Citizens can apply for a wide array of positions with the Chickasaw Nation, from entry level to management. Hiring managers will be on-site to meet with candidates, conduct interviews and answer questions.

Positions in education, health care, human resources, casino operations, information technology and more will be offered. Refreshments will be provided.

Citizens can also learn more about working with Chickasaw Nation recruiters who can assist them on their career path.

Candidates are asked to bring a driver's license, Social Security card and CDIB. Applications can be completed in advance online at chickasaw.net/careers.

For more information, contact human resources at (580) 436-7259.

‘Tell A Fairy Tale Day’ is Feb. 24

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities will celebrate National Tell A Fairy Tale Day, Friday, Feb. 24. Guests will gather at 11:30 a.m., in the Arts & Humanities gallery, 201 N. Broadway in Ada.

This fairy tale experience is open to the public. Attendees are invited to bring a lunch and listen, or share or read your favorite story.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

Apply now for internship program

Chickasaws ages 18 through 25 may now apply for the 2017 Chickasaw Nation Internship Program.

Chickasaw Nation Culture and Humanities is accepting internship applications through March 1.

This program trains young Chickasaw leaders to identify problems and implement lasting solutions. Students will develop working relationships and collaborate with government and

business leaders.

Interns are provided an eight-week internship opportunity, bi-weekly pay, one round-trip ticket to the internship location and housing accommodations.

Applicants must be Chickasaw citizens, ages 18-25, and full-time college students.

Applications can be found at www.chickasaw.net/internship.

For more information, contact Catie Hamilton at (580) 272-1286 or catie.hamilton@chickasaw.net.

Outpatient Services relocated to Purcell

PURCELL, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Outpatient Services has moved to 1726 N. Green Ave., in Purcell. Patients can enter through the main entrance on the west side of the building.

Outpatient services offers individual, couples and family counseling services, therapy groups and educational workshops for

parenting, grief, relationships, anxiety, depression and substance abuse.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, contact Purcell Outpatient Services at (405) 767-8940.

Arts Academy seeks instructors

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is accepting applications for 2017 Chickasaw Arts Academy summer session instructors.

The Arts Academy is a two-week exploration into the worlds of visual and performing arts.

The 2017 Academy will be July 10 – 22 on the campus of East Central University in Ada, with an Art Walk, Friday, July 21 and a showcase of student, Saturday, July 22.

The Academy is made up of students ages 8 through 18. The program includes a range or disciplines, including but not limited to such areas as vocal music, theatre, technical theatre, dance (ballet, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, tap, hip-hop, etc.), visual arts in 2-D and 3-D, graphic design, instrumental music, photography, fashion design, video production, and makeup/special effects.

If interested in teaching, please include the following information in your letter of interest:

Area of expertise
Desired teaching level (8-10 yr., 11-13 yr., or 14-18 yr.)
A brief description of training and experience
A short description of your suggested curriculum contents and estimated budget
Resume/vita
Providing examples of your work is highly recommended.
Send to: Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities Division, ATTN: Chickasaw Arts Academy – Summer Session, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821, or fax to (580) 272-5525 by March 18.

Those who meet the criteria will be sent a formal application, as well as other information about the academy.

Chickasaw and Southeastern art professionals are encouraged, and additional Native American and non-Native professionals, to submit a letter of interest.

For more information, email the arts academy team at ArtsAcadamy@chickasaw.net

Yaakni’ Apiisachi Youth Day Camps offered now through May at Kullihoma

Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services will host 10 youth environmental education classes through May. The Yaakni’ Apiisachi Day Camps will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kullihoma.

Students ages 13-16 are eligible to apply. Lunch will be provided.

To promote a better understanding of environmental protection issues, participants will learn the importance of taking care of the environment through a true hands-on experience.

Participants will take trips to local hiking/backpacking trails for the day. The group will hike out for a short trip and set up a camp. There, leaders will teach and demonstrate skills to reduce

environmental impacts. Students will also learn about outdoor emergencies, first aid and survival.

Yaakni’ Apiisachi Day Camp will be on the following dates: Monday, Feb. 20; Friday, March 10; Monday, March 13; Tuesday, March 14; Wednesday, March 15; Thursday, March 16; Friday, March 17; Friday, April 14; Friday, May 5; and Thursday, May 25.

This hiking experience is free and open to the public. Chickasaw preference will be given. Camp size is limited.

For more information, or to register, contact Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services at (580) 272-5412.

Year’s first baby born January 1



Big sister Loyalty, mother Lauren and baby Da'Corion.

ADA, Okla. – The Chickasaw Nation Medical Center welcomed its first baby of 2017 shortly after the new year.

Da'Corion McCarroll made his way in the world at 12:40 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017. He weighed 6 lbs., 1 oz. at birth.

His parents are Corey McCarroll and Lauren Coody.

MAHOTA STUDIOS 2017 Workshops

January 27
INKLE WEAVING with Anita Grant
Participants use the inkle loom to create intricate patterns and designs.

February 24
HOTA HAND-SEWN ORGANIC COTTON BLOUSE with Margaret Wheeler
Chickasaw artist Margaret Wheeler instructs participants in creating a hand-sewn blouse with block-printed patterns.

March 31
PAINTED WARP with Suza Wooldridge
Instructor Suza Wooldridge introduces students to the basics of dyeing threads, color blending and designing.

April 28
KUMIHIMO with Janette Meetze
Fiber artist Janette Meetze teaches participants how to make a necklace with the Japanese braiding technique.

May 19
NATURAL DYE WORKSHOP with Margaret Wheeler
Chickasaw artist Margaret Wheeler leads the class in a foraging walk to collect dyes. Later, students create dye pots with various plant materials and dye their own yarn.

June 17
FELT-MAKING with Diana Cannon
Instructor Diana Cannon shows students how to create felt from natural wool fibers in an array of colors.

August 25-26
MUD CLOTH with Judy Dominic
Fiber artist Judy Dominic demonstrates her take on the dyeing technique from Mali, Africa.

September 25
PIECEWORK with Maya Stewart & Jimmie Fife
The mother and daughter Chickasaw artists instruct students in the creation of Seminole patchwork cloth designs.

For more information, or to enroll, call the ARTesian Gallery & Studios at (580) 622-8040.

Chickasaw Press

‘Anompolichi: The Wordmaster’ a unique piece of historical fiction

Anompolichi: The Wordmaster, by Phillip Carroll Morgan, is a historic fictional novel that explores civilization in pre-Columbian North America.

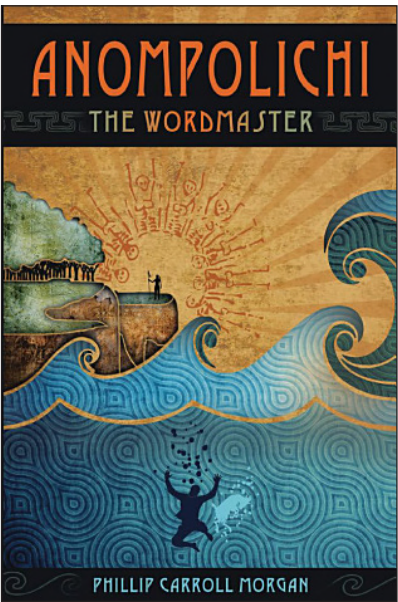
Mr. Morgan is an award-winning author. He holds a master's degree and a doctorate in Native American literature from the University of Oklahoma.

Anompolichi tells the story of a fourteenth-century Scottish sailor, Robert Williams, as he leaves port for a short voyage around the British Isles. A powerful storm leaves Williams in a new world where he meets a remarkable Native man who recognizes him from a dream. Williams and his new friend soon find themselves caught up in danger and plunged into adventure in the New World.

Anompolichi: The Wordmaster can be purchased online at www.chickasawpress.com.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Press at (580) 436-7282 or info@chickasawpress.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Taylor Owen, Public Affairs.



Lego League recognizes budding engineers

ADA, Okla. – The Chickasaw Nation FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and FIRST LEGO League Jr. (FLL Jr.) recognized Chickasaw youth participants for a successful season Dec. 20 at the Chickasaw Community Center in Ada.

FLL is a program facilitated by the Chickasaw Nation Science, Technology and Math (STM) Academy. It welcomes students ages nine to 14 to explore robotics challenges and competitions using real-world math, science and problem-solving skills.

FLL Jr. introduces students ages six to eight to the FIRST LEGO program, teaching the benefits of teamwork and sparking interest in science and technology.

The end of the season awards banquet invited students and their families to share in the excitement of the FIRST LEGO League programs.

FLL Jr. students recognized for perfect attendance were Ethan Hoover and Braxton Johnson. FLL students with perfect attendance were Emmanuel Padilla, Jordan Tiger, Drennan Jesse, Ahmad Moore, Jenna Traylor and Corbin West.

Outstanding FLL Jr. Student



Chickasaw First Lego League team participants Caitlin, Daniel and Ryan Hamilton were among the students honored at the FIRST LEGO League and FIRST LEGO League Jr. Awards Banquet at the Chickasaw Community Center in Ada, Okla., Dec. 20.

Awards went to Ethan Hoover, Kayson Seals-Rutherford and Adrian Logan.

Outstanding Student Awards went to Emery Seals-Rutherford and Corbin West.

The FLL and FLL Jr. programs benefitted from mentoring and volunteer participation, including parent leadership. Parent leaders honored at the event were Stefani Boyle, Jeannine Rutherford and Dohna Logan.

Community service is a component of all of the Chickasaw Nation robotics programs. The FLL

Jr. students logged 10 hours of community service. High school students of the FIRST Tech Challenge league served the families at the awards banquet as part of their service contribution.

During season competitions, FLL and FLL Jr. teams were recognized for Core Values, Robot Design, Construction Innovation, Effort and Learning and Gracious Professionalism, the highest award a team can receive.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Tribe’s School-to-Work students hitting stride, meeting success benchmarks

ADA, Okla. – Chickasaw citizen Robin Monetathchi recently crossed a lifelong goal off her list when she earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from East Central University.

Ms. Monetathchi, wife, mother of two and full-time accountant, was able to complete her degree while supporting her family through her participation in the Chickasaw Nation School-to-Work Program.

The school-to work-program provides Chickasaw citizens with on-the-job experience while they are students in university or vocational degree programs. Ms. Monetathchi was able to learn on the job working as an accountant for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Treasury and receive a paycheck and benefits as a full-time employee.

The goal is to prepare students with work experience during their studies and increase employment retention. This goal was reached with Ms. Monetathchi, who was able to balance family, school and career thanks to the program.

In both 2014 and 2016, the program was a semi-finalist in the Honoring Nations, a best practices awards program from the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.



Fall 2016 School-to-Work graduates received Pendleton blankets in recognition of their achievement at a Jan. 10 appreciation luncheon in Ada, Okla. Back row from left, Brandon Parker, Lawana Martin, Melissa Cranford, Anna Adair, Robin Monetathchi, Cheyenne Digby, Heather Rhynes, Kaylee Walker. Front row from left, Cameron Chavez-Roj, Jacqueline Danelle Stephens, Crystal Clary. Not pictured: Brook McVeigh

Honoring Nations recognizes innovative tribal programs that promote economic development, sovereignty and equip Native Americans for economic success.

“The Chickasaw Nation made it possible for me to obtain my degree while working full time to support my family,” Ms. Monetathchi said. “I would not have achieved this great accomplishment without their support.”

“The on-the-job experience provided to student employees transforms them into educated professionals who can meet the demands of today's career climate,” program manager Valerie Nix said. “The program allows the Chickasaw Nation to create a skilled workforce.”

The program has a high success rate, with 196 student employees successfully completing degrees. A total of 171 of those students were employed in professional careers upon graduation and 131

of those educated, employed graduates are employees of the Chickasaw Nation. The school-to-work program has been operating since 2006.

“Graduates of the program are living examples of the Chickasaw Nation fulfilling its mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people by providing opportunity, support and promoting a sense of self-worth, accomplishment and pride among Chickasaw citizens,” Ms. Nix said. “Increasing access and providing the opportunity to achieve academic success empowers individuals to find and maintain meaningful employment, and, in turn, secures a more prosperous future for students and families. The end result is a highly capable, motivated, loyal and dedicated workforce.”

Melissa Cranford is another School-to-Work success story. Ms. Cranford began her work experience with the Chickasaw Nation as an administrative assistant fresh out of Byng (OK) High School.

In 2014, she was accepted into the School-to-Work Program as she began her sophomore year of college at East Central University. She received experience working in Human Resources while studying for a bachelor's degree



ROBIN MONETATHCHI

in family and consumer science and also earning a certificate in human resources business management.

“The Chickasaw Nation helped me in ways that I am so grateful for,” she said. “They supported me and gave me motivation to get through school and keep my focus on the end result. I chose a career in human resources very early on in my college career because of my love of helping everyone, including my fellow Chickasaw citizens. Being in the School-to-Work program gave me the opportunity to gain experience in the human resources field.”

Ms. Cranford has accepted a job at the Chickasaw Nation Department of Interior Services, where she will continue to grow her human resources skills and knowledge.

“It is a blessing to see Chickasaw citizens gain a higher education while also obtaining valuable skills, knowledge and experience that will benefit them for the rest of their lives,” Ms. Nix said. “I am



MELISSA CRANFORD

thankful that I get to work at the Chickasaw Nation with such an amazing program.”

The School-to-Work program is just one of the many resources offered by the Chickasaw Nation with the goal of educating and preparing citizens to be exemplary employees. The programs not only benefit the citizens, but also strengthen the Chickasaw Nation workforce and surrounding communities.

Additional semester graduates include:

Cameron Chavez-Roj, Brooke McVeigh, Anna Adair , Jacqueline Danelle Stephens, Cheyenne Digby , Crystal Clary, Kaylee Davis-Walker, Heather Rhynes, Brandon Walker and Lawanna Martin.

Chickasaw citizens interested in learning more about the school to work program can visit www.chickasaw.net/careers to find School-to-Work Program openings, or contact a Chickasaw Nation citizen recruiter at ChickasawRecruiters@Chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

THRIVE

— TRADITIONS —

CHICKASAW CULTURE KEEPERS

Through our Thrive Traditions series, you've experienced Chickasaw traditions that have withstood the test of time. Potters, beaders and other artisans practice their crafts with dedication and passion, channeling the spirits of their Chickasaw ancestors.

Visit Chickasaw.tv/Thrive for the latest episode, featuring **shell carving with Dustin Mater.**

February — Weaving with Cotie Lancaster
March — Horticulture with Rhonda Sellers
April — Basketweaving with Susan Ledford

To stay current on the latest **THRIVE** content, sign up for email alerts at Chickasaw.tv.

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THRIVE TRADITIONS | SHELL CARVING

New Year's resolutions getting tired? Find help at your Wellness Center!

Chokma! Greetings from the Tishomingo District! It is human nature to resolve to make self improvements upon the arrival of a new year. One of the most popular resolution is living a healthier lifestyle. This often entails eating healthier foods, increasing activity and kicking bad habits, such as smoking.



TIM COLBERT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

While most people embrace the new year as a new beginning to accomplish these goals; many find it difficult to stick to their resolve to live a healthier life once the calendar turns to February. Fortunately for Chickasaw citizens, we have a large support network to help guide us along the path of a healthier life, including Wellness Centers, nutrition and education programs. Located in Ada, Ardmore, Tishomingo and soon, Purcell, the Chickasaw Nation Wellness Centers provide education, mentoring, monitoring, incentive programs to promote a healthy lifestyle. At these wellness centers, Chickasaw citizens and employees can utilize equipment, a swimming pool and join in several types of exercise classes which are designed to improve overall health. Friendly staff members are there to motivate, encourage and educate participants. In addition, nutrition classes which teach healthy meal planning and preparation are hosted at these facilities. Wellness Centers are open to citizens and employees at no charge, and to the general public for a fee.

If eating healthier is on your list for the new year, many citizens can participate in several nutrition programs. Our elders can participate in the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, which provides checks for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables from farmer's markets throughout the Chickasaw Nation in the summer and fall months. In the winter months, the farmer's market program provides Chickasaw elders with winter fruit and vegetable packages. These programs are designed to provide our elders with healthy fruits and vegetables year-round. Other eligible citizens may participate in the WIC (Women's Infants and Children) program, or the Food Distribution Program, which also provide healthy foods and nutrition education.

At the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, any child under the age of 18 can receive a healthy meal at the hospital café. Also at CNMC, support is available to those who wish to quit using tobacco products. For more information about the Wellness Centers, please call (580) 310-9661 in Ada, (580) 222-2828 in Ardmore, and (580) 387-2711 in Tishomingo. To get more information about Nutrition Programs, please call 1-888-436-7255. Best wishes for a healthier 2017! As always, thank you the privilege of serving as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Chokma' shki, Tim Colbert Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net 580-421-7242

Things have changed since the days of requiring BIA approval for land sales

Hello Everybody, Last month's article about the nominee to lead the Department of Interior and subsequently the Bureau of Indian affairs, reminded me of a story. For my grandpa, Intolubby Underwood, and other Indian landholders in Oklahoma in the early 1900's, BIA management of land was not a good thing.



KATIE CASE

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

It meant he had to get local BIA agent approval to sell or lease the surface or mineral rights of his land. Think of that. He had to get approval from the government to sell or lease his land. Early in their marriage, Grandpa and Grandma had several babies who died, leaving them with hospital bills over and above the normal living expenses that they worked hard to barely cover. Grandpa tried not to ever make a bill. But, if he had one, it was very important to him to pay it. Because he said to me many times, "Smoke, don't ever sell the home place," his decision to sell some land showed how important it was to him to pay his bills. He would go on to say, "That way, no matter what, you'll always have a place to come back to. You can grow your own food here. There's plenty of game. You can hunt and fish. There is good water. They can't starve you out here." So, when Grandpa was able to arrange for the sale of some of his land to pay bills, I'm sure it was a bitter sweet blessing. Because Grandpa's land was restricted-allotment land, the sale required the approval of the BIA agent, officed on the third floor of the Post Office and Courthouse building in Ada. Construction of the Post Office and Courthouse building in Ada, Ok was completed in 1933. The building is still in use as a post office today. It is a two- and three-story plus basement, large, gray stone block building. In front, eight steps lead up to the double-door entrance. In Grandpa's day, lanterns flanked the entry staircase. The basement level is partially above ground with no windows and "United States Post Office and Courthouse" is engraved above the entrance. I'm sure Grandpa removed his hat as he entered the new building with its new wainscoting and beautiful terrazzo floors. He probably worried a bit with his hat brim as he climbed the stairs to the third floor to explain the situation and ask for approval to sell some of his land. Upon hearing Grandpa's request, the BIA agent flip-pantly disapproved the sale saying, "If it is worth that much to him (the buyer), I'm sure it is worth that much to you to keep it." This part always makes me smile. Grandpa then threatened to throw the agent out his third story office window and was barred from the office for his trouble! Eventually, Grandpa's temper eased and the BIA agent's stance softened. Grandpa was able to sell the land and the hospital bills got paid. If you need me, just call. Respectfully, Katie

Take time to enjoy our Chickasaw Dancers; Rosetta Stone a big addition

Recently I had the opportunity to watch the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe in action! They were the featured entertainment and program for the Oklahoma City Chickasaw Community Council monthly meeting. I am always thrilled and enthralled by their performances. Many of the dancers are talented in other cultural gifts such as making and playing flutes, designing and constructing their own shakers, beading various items, or storytelling to name a few. These men and women carry the mantle of our ancestors when they step into the dance area. Their appearance in traditional dress, is eye catching. The songs they perform are handed down from our ancestors. I am thankful that the Chickasaw Nation is making strides to preserve our tribal history and culture. Every time the Dance Troupe performs and I am near, there is a part of me that feels the call to join in; even if it is for a few minutes. Not just anyone can say they have danced with Chickasaw Dancers! This only happens if you get the chance to see them live and in person! Don't miss out on this experience. How can we expect our children and grandchildren to participate in learning more about their Chickasaw history if we don't set the example for them?

Another important cultural development is the Chickasaw Nation partnering with Rosetta Stone. This is another way to help preserve our language. Make sure you get in on this! Don't use your age, lack of computer skills or location keep you out of the loop! Contact the Nation to learn more about this exciting development! Dance Troupe members that attended the OKC meeting: Mr. Buddy Parchcorn (Dance Troupe Coordinator), Dekana Blackwell, Halley Taylor, Nacobi Walker, Courtney Parchorn, Cotie Poe Lancaster, Sharon Postoak, Julie Underwood, Ofi Ishto, Jesse Lindsey, Carolyn Herman, Erica Herman, Melissa Herman and Felix Shico. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person. Colossians 4:6 Beth Alexander (580) 272-7850



Tribal businesses set accelerated revenue, net pace in FY first quarter

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Department of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc. The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify. Revenues of tribal government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income. Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, the Chickasaw Times and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants. The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe. Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending December 31, 2016 Tribal Government Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled \$22.1 million for the month and \$54.5 million year-to-date. Expenditures were \$11.3 million for the month and \$37.8 million year-to-date. Chickasaw Businesses Revenue net of gaming prizes through December totaled \$340 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was \$56.6 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was \$6.2 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion. Statement of Net Assets At December 31, 2016, the tribal government funds had \$392.7 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, \$22.6 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds. The businesses had \$243.6 million in cash and investments which is reserved for

accounts payable and business operations. As of December 31, 2016, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of \$2.25 billion.

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For the Three Months Ended December 31, 2016			
	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	\$ 4,052,749	340,046,549	344,099,298
Transfers From Businesses To Tribal Government	50,406,794	(50,406,794)	-
Total Funds Available	54,459,543	289,639,755	344,099,298
Expenditures			
General Government	1,885,111	-	1,885,111
Legislature	780,468	-	780,468
Judiciary	312,915	-	312,915
Education	4,343,500	-	4,343,500
Heritage Preservation	7,228,510	-	7,228,510
Health	4,338,741	-	4,338,741
Youth Services	1,606,099	-	1,606,099
Family Services	4,358,776	-	4,358,776
Nutrition Programs	2,046,959	-	2,046,959
Regulatory	3,643,624	-	3,643,624
Assistance Programs	7,263,784	-	7,263,784
Gaming Expense	-	197,384,073	197,384,073
Other Businesses' Expense	-	86,022,399	86,022,399
Total Expenditures	37,808,486	283,406,473	321,214,959
Increase In Net Assets	16,651,057	6,233,282	22,884,339
Beginning Net Assets	871,188,746	1,355,004,419	2,226,193,164
Ending Net Assets	\$ 887,839,802	1,361,237,701	2,249,077,503
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Net Assets December 31, 2016			
	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash And Investments	\$ 392,663,007	243,605,818	636,268,825
Receivables	8,155,730	122,212,656	130,368,386
Inventory	37,528	7,590,204	7,627,731
Prepaid Expenses	-	26,440,814	26,440,814
Other Assets	-	1,078,139	1,078,139
Fixed Assets	491,620,931	1,103,448,363	1,595,069,295
Less Payables	(4,637,394)	(143,138,292)	(147,775,686)
Net Assets	\$ 887,839,802	1,361,237,701	2,249,077,503

Chickasaw Nation internship program offers connections to many disciplines

Chokma, Chinchokma, Hello, how are you? As you know, the Chickasaw Nation offers many programs to allow and encourage all of our citizens to get the education and skill development needed to enhance their lives and prepare them for a lifelong career. For those exceptional college students who would like to go further than completing a degree, and who are especially motivated to become leaders in their chosen fields and real-world problem solvers, there is the Internship Program. The Internship Program works as a partnership with leaders across the country to provide an exclusive educational opportunity to “exceptional” students.



NANCY ELLIOTT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Students are able to seek internships in a variety of areas, including: history, agriculture, business, accounting, human resources, Native American studies, communications, anthropology, and many more. The program is designed to train young leaders to identify problems and implement lasting solutions through collaborative working relationships with government and business leaders. During the six- to eight-week internship program, the interns are paid a salary, provided housing, and travel expenses are covered for any participant living outside the job location area. If you are a full-time college student, currently enrolled, and between the ages of 18-25, and you are interested in applying for an internship this coming summer, the deadline to apply is March 1.

For more information or to submit an application, visit www.chickasaw.net/Internship, or call (580) 272-1286. This is just one of many fabulous educational programs offered to Chickasaw citizens. If any citizen has a need for skill development in order to help get a better job, the Chickasaw Nation is here to help, if needed. Check the Program and Services Guide for a complete list of educational and vocational programs. They can also be found at the website, www.chickasaw.net. Last month in my article about the Chickasaw Language Rosetta Stone program, I noted an incorrect website. The correct website address is www.chickasawlanguage.com. Information can also be found at our main website. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Please let me know if I can help in any way. Chipisala’ cho anowa, Until I see you again, Nancy

Nancy.Elliott@Chickasaw.net
580-399-4374

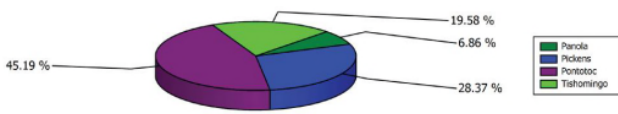
Update address online or by phone!

It is a happy new year when we can keep in touch with Chickasaw citizens! Let us know your physical address with an easy address update online or by phone.

Receive important news, resources, guides and help us respond when you are affected by a natural disaster or weather emergency when you add your current information online at www.chickasaw.net/address or call (888) 661-0137.

Count of Voters by District

Panola	2,232	Pontotoc	14,700
Pickens	9,227	Tishomingo	6,369
			32,528



Court Camp set for June; Judge Rowe, Peacemaker Landrith sworn in

Chokma, Hello, this has been a wonderful busy 2017 and the Judicial Department is excited about a productive year. The Judicial Department has exciting programs set up for this spring and summer including continuing legal education seminar for members of the Chickasaw Nation Bar Association and YAAKNI’ INAALHPISAAT CHOKMA, Chickasaw Nation court camp. It is never too early to mark your calendar now to learn about our tribal court system. During this very cold season, now is the time to check on your neighbor whether young or old and make sure they have plenty supplies to get through the cold weather. If you have time make a pot of soup and take an extra blanket and let them know that you are there for them if they need you and that you are always just a step away from a warm hug. At the end of the day you will be blessed by the kindness you have shown to your neighbor whether young or old.

CHERI BELLEFEUILLE-GORDON

Chief Justice Supreme Court

The District Court currently has court on Tuesday and Thursdays of each week and the last Wednesday of each month in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

We are proud to display only Chickasaw artists’ work throughout the building.

Any citizen interested in the court system and a tour of the court please contact Connie Tillery, Supreme Court Clerk, (580) 235-0281.

We are very excited about the Mock Trial qualifying round for area high schools to be held at our Court on February 2 and 3, 2017.

YAAKNI’ INAALHPISAAT CHOKMA, Chickasaw Nation court camp is scheduled for June 12 and 13, 2017; this is a two (2) day camp from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., each day. The camp educates youth on the operations of tribal court system. Students have the opportunity to meet tribal judges, Supreme Court Justices, Chickasaw Lighthorse police officers, Peacemakers, and court staff. Students will also visit CLEET, Pontotoc County Jail and participate in mock trials. Students will be directly exposed to the basics of certain substantive areas of Chickasaw tribal law.

The ages are 8 to 14. Transportation is not provided. We hope our camp will influence the students to continue their educations and to possibly pursue a job in the court system. We are now accepting applications for our camp. Application deadlines are fast approaching, with the final day of acceptance being April 15, 2017.

We are also looking for ten (10) volunteers to assist with the group during the camp days, any Chickasaw employee working toward IDP can call Connie Tillery, (580) 235-0281 to volunteer and receive IDP credit. For more information or to obtain an application, contact the Supreme Court office (580) 235-0281. Additional information is available at www.chickasaw.net/youthcamps. Applications may be submitted by mail, fax or online or contact Connie Tillery, Supreme Court Clerk, at (580) 235-0281.

The Chickasaw Nation Bar Association continuing legal education spring seminar is now scheduled for April 28, 2017, at Winstar Convention Center to begin at 8:00 a.m. This seminar will be 1/2 day seminar to include CLE credit and ethics. Please mark your calendar now to attend and contact Ginger Sanders, District Court Clerk Deputy, (580) 235-0279 for registration. To date, the Chickasaw Nation Bar Association membership has grown to over 580 members. These members are all able to practice in our courts. Contact information for our Bar Association members is listed at www.chickasaw.net on the judicial page click Bar Association.

DISTRICT COURT NEWS

District Judge Dustin Rowe was sworn in on January

5, 2017, for his three-year appointment as District Judge. Chief Justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon administered the oath. Nicole Rowe was in attendance holding the bible as District Judge Rowe was sworn in.

Tom Landrith was sworn in on January 5, 2017, as a peacemaker for the peacemaking court. Chief Justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon administered the oath. District Court Clerk, Wayne Joplin, was in attendance holding the bible as Peacemaker Tom Landrith was sworn in.

The Chickasaw Nation District Court continues to strive to serve the citizens to the best of their abilities. District Court Clerk, Wayne Joplin and Deputy Court Clerks, Jeanie Jones, Ginger Sanders, and Edward Stillwell, are available to assist you Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Chickasaw District Court. If you have any questions, you may call: (580) 235-0279. If you would like to speak with a Court Advocate, they will schedule you an appointment.

The District Court had a total of 43 NEW cases filed in December, 2016. The Court Advocates assisted 65 individuals in the month of December, 2016. As our records indicate, we are continuing to grow and with that growth we will endeavor to provide our citizens with service and guidance to meet their legal needs.

Again, it is my pleasure to report on a busy and successful month in the Judicial Department. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chief Justice. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you. CHIPISALA’ CHO ANOWA means “Until I see you again.” Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordon. Please contact me, I would love to hear from you (580) 235-0281 or cheri.bellefeuille-gordon@chickasaw.net.



District Judge Dustin Rowe was sworn in on January 5 for his three-year appointment as District Judge.



Tom Landrith was sworn in on January 5 as a Peacemaker.

2017 Programs & Services Directories now available



The 2017 Programs and Services Directories are now available for download at www.Chickasaw.net/Services. The directories contain information about the many tribal programs and services available to Chickasaw citizens.

The Chickasaw Programs and Services Apps are also available for Apple and android devices. The apps provide fast and easy access to Chickasaw Nation Programs and Services information while you are on the go.

2016-2017 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District

- Seat #
1. Toby Perkins
15810 CR 1569
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-2606
Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net
 2. Nancy Elliott
620 Ann
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-4374
Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net
 3. Katie Case
P.O. Box 145
Stonewall, OK 74871
(580) 272-8385
Katie.Case@chickasaw.net
 4. Dean McManus
5980 CR 3430
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 235-2651
Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net
 5. Lisa J. Billy
19259 150th Street
Lindsay, OK 73052

Pickens District

- Seat #
1. David Woerz
P.O. Box 669
Ardmore, OK 73402
(580) 235-3240
David.Woerz@chickasaw.net
 2. Connie Barker
509 SW 7th Ave.
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-4175
Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net
 3. Linda Briggs
P.O. Box 241
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-7268
Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net
 4. Shana Tate Hammond
801 North Mississippi
Ada, Oklahoma, 74820
(580) 235-1438
Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District

- Seat #
1. Scott Wood
204 East Main Street
Tishomingo, OK 73460
(580) 221-1430
Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net
 2. Tim Colbert
P.O. Box 773
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 421-7242
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
 3. Steven Woods
5071 Gray’s Road
Davis, OK 73030
(580) 272-7270
Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District

- Seat #
1. Beth Alexander
PO Box 246
Achille, OK 74720
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Together we can prevent diabetes!

Mr. Eagle's Nest

Cold Outside, Healthy Inside and Out!

Chokmal! Mr. Eagle's Nest is a place to share tips for keeping your body strong and healthy.

My friend Miss Rabbit is a healthy rabbit. She makes sure that her body is strong all year round by hopping around outside. When it is too cold, she does jumping jacks inside.

Miss Rabbit thinks you can stay moving inside, and outside, too. At recess, a game of tag is a sure way to keep warm. When you are at home, dancing, stretching, and running in place make for a hopping good time.

Do you know the Chickasaw word for snow? You say okti'.

Miss Rabbit has a great joke to share today. What kind of ball doesn't bounce? A snowball!

Tell us how you get moving, inside and outside, with your family and friends!

Visit www.eagleadventure.com or call (580) 272-5596 to leave a message and share your family's favorite activities with Mr. Eagle and his friends!

Facebook video brings family to Chickasaw program

Young couple makes commitment to foster parenting, adoption



JOEL and JONI CHASTAIN

ADA, Okla. – In June of last year, Joel and Joni Chastain made a decision to grow their home and their hearts. They began the process of becoming approved foster parents through the Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program.

The Chastain family lives in Ada, where Mr. Chastain, a Chickasaw, is an organizational planning and support senior manager with the Chickasaw Nation. Mrs. Chastain recently left her job at a church to be a stay-at-home foster parent.

"Joel and I have always planned

to foster and adopt," Mrs. Chastain said. "We remember having conversations about it when we were dating as far back as 10 years ago. It's something that has been on our hearts individually as well."

The couple welcomed its first foster child in September. Just hours after the baby arrived, they realized the baby needed immediate medical attention. After taking the child to the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, doctors diagnosed a life-threatening condition and sent the child to an out-of-state neonatal intensive

care unit. The new foster parents stayed with the baby for several weeks while the child underwent and recovered from emergency surgery.

The baby is thriving now, and the Chastains were overwhelmed with support during the ordeal.

"Several people in Chickasaw Family Services were in constant communication while we were at the hospital with the baby," Mrs. Chastain said. "The Chickasaw Nation, always being so family oriented, were extremely supportive of Joel taking off work to be at the hospital. Our church sent gifts and food, mowed our lawn, completely redid our landscaping, cared for our dog and even completed some home renovations that we were planning!"

The new foster parents say they had bonded with their baby by singing, reading, stretching, talking, dancing and constantly getting him to giggle. Mrs. Chastain said their favorite activity was reading.

"If this child doesn't grow up with a great love for books, I will be shocked!" Mrs. Chastain said, as she described the way the baby intently listens to her story telling and peers at the book pages.

Keeping a cultural connection is also an important goal of the Chastains and the Chickasaw Nation program. The Chas-

tains make the most of monthly Chickasaw Connection meetings to stay informed about services and have the opportunity to ask questions. They took the baby to the Chickasaw Nation Christmas party for foster children where the child received gifts and met Santa. We use the language flashcards to start teaching the baby Chickasaw words and are looking forward to using Rosetta Stone as well.

"We use the language flashcards to start teaching the baby Chickasaw words, and we are looking forward to using Rosetta Stone, as well," Mrs. Chastain said. "My major was in Spanish, so I am excited at the thought of teaching animals, places and things in English, Spanish and Chickasaw!"

The Chastains love every minute of getting to know their new foster child. They are also strong advocates for the reunification of families.

"While we hope that someday we have the opportunity to adopt, we understand that biological parents can receive the support and encouragement and resources to learn how to become the kind of parents they want to be," Mr. Chastain said. "We hope to develop positive relationships with the biological families of every child we care for so that we can encourage and support them to live healthy and safe lifestyles, with the main focus on the love and care for the child."

The couple started its foster parenting journey after watching a Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption video on Facebook. Once they started the application process, it took about six weeks for them to be approved.

The Chastains were eager to get started and were looking for-

ward to sharing their hearts with a child. They also had concerns about getting attached to a child who would eventually leave.

"After three months with this perfect child, I can tell you that there is not a scenario in which we will regret loving him in our home," Mr. Chastain said. "At the end of it all, we have to believe that any amount of time a child is with us is not wasted because in that time they were loved, safe and happy."

"Absolutely everything has changed for us," Mrs. Chastain added. "Since this our first child that we have cared for, everything has been a new experience. As unconventional as it is, we love this baby completely and regardless of where the child lives in the future this is the baby that made us parents!"

The Chastains urge other families who are thinking about fostering to take the leap of faith and look into it.

"If you're thinking about it but you don't know for sure, talk to Chickasaw Nation Family Services about doing respite care," Mrs. Chastain said. "This way you can support foster families by caring for foster kids for an evening, day or a few days at a time. It will be a huge help to the foster families and will give you a glimpse into the children's lives while having the chance to show them love and a healthy and happy home."

Many resources are available to help foster families with needs from medical care to clothing and diapers. The Chastains were able to use WIC benefits, SoonerCare health insurance, received starter items of clothing and food donations from their church's foster care closet and the House of Hope. They are also signing their little on up for the Chickasaw Nation Reading Program to continue his love for books.

The Chickasaw Nation Foster and Adoption Program social workers can assist new families with the application process and connect them with resources once they receive a child to care for. Visit www.Chickasaw.net/foster for more information about becoming a foster family for Native American children in need.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Tribal initiative ‘Define Your Direction’ captures silver award for video excellence

ADA, Okla. – In November, Define Your Direction, an initiative of the Chickasaw Nation, won a silver award at the 2016 W³ Awards in the "Online Video – Public Service" category.

Awarded by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Art, the W³ Awards honor creative excellence on the web, and recognizes the creative and marketing professionals behind award-winning sites, videos and marketing programs. Receiving nearly 5,000 entries, the W³ Awards highlights outstanding websites, web marketing, web video, mobile sites/apps and social content.



From left, Public Health Staff Shari West, Executive Assistant; Miranda Willis, Strategic Prevention Data Analyst; Sheryl Goodson, Executive Officer, Satellite Clinics; and Christie Byars, ELSI Research Assistant with the silver award for Online Video-Public Service category.

By educating teens and young adults about the dangers of both subjects, the mission is to create a generation of students eager to participate in their communities, live healthy lives and be positive role models. Through Define Your Direction, you can receive free resources to use when talking to teens about prescription drug

abuse and underage drinking. The program is grant-funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in collaboration with the Chickasaw Nation and Southern Plains Tribal Health Board.

For more information, please contact public health at (580) 272-1182.

Outstanding Citizenship Award



Devin Pleets, son of Kaycie Rattan and Dennis Pleets, is the recipient of the Chickasaw Nation Honor Club Outstanding Citizenship Award. Devin, a third-grader at Latta (OK) Elementary School, was nominated by his teacher, Bobbie Priest, who observed his diligence and good behavior.

"Devin is an excellent student who always tries his best," Ms. Priest said. "He is a new student to Latta this year and has fit in well. He is a pleasure to have in class."

Devin enjoys playing outside, playing with his animals and reading. He is a member of the Chickasaw Honor Club, maintains perfect attendance and plays on the Lakers basketball team.

"When I grow up I want to be a zookeeper and a monster truck driver," Devin said.

Chickasaw singer among top streaming artists



SOPHIA WELLS

An Oklahoma music streaming group has recently rated a Chickasaw musician among the most-listened-to in the state.

Sophia Wells, who uses the stage names Swells, was rated number four in the list of Top 10 Okie Track Debuts. The song receiving the attention was "White Noise."

Streaming music can be accessed on a number of websites with either desktop or mobile devices.

East Central University offering unique master’s program mixing natural resources, Indian law

ADA, Okla. – East Central University is offering a unique master's program focused on water, natural resources and Native American law and politics.

The Water Resources Policy and Management Master's of Science degree is an outgrowth of the historic water settlement recently okayed by the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, State of Oklahoma and City of Oklahoma City. The settlement established a framework for pragmatic water resource management throughout the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations.

Universities throughout the country offer programs that focus on Indian law or water and natural resources. The ECU master's program blends these fields with the scientific aspects of water.

The degree is 30 hours with a number of online options. The program also offers quality internships and research experiences.

The university is also recruiting "4+1" students for the program. Those students can complete both bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.

As undergraduates, students can get involved with the Water Resources Association, conduct research with faculty, and serve internships at Kerr Environmental Research Center or the new Oka Institute.

Enrollment is open every fall, spring and summer.

Apply online at www.ecok.edu/WRPMAplication

For more information, contact Dr. Christine Pappas, ECU Department of Political Science and Legal Studies, at (580) 559-5640 or cpappas@ecok.edu

TATE | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

oping and showing Lakota kids they have talent, to bring fresh thinking and new ideas to Indian Country and the communities it influences.

"I have worked with many tribes, including Navajo, Ojibway, Lakota, Sac and Fox, Ponca, Cherokee, Hopi, Creek, Tohono O'odham, Choctaw, Apache, Lakota and Chickasaw," he said. "There is a benefit to be gained by tribes coming together and saying 'We are truly Indian Country. We work together for positive growth and the common good for all our people.' We are including everyone to enjoy amazing music, performed in tremendous

settings, and we are inviting it through learning, collaboration and training."

Only five orchestras and composers were awarded residency grants. Others include Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Berkeley Symphony, Champaign-Urbana Symphony and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Each will have a composer "embedded" with them for the next three years.

Mr. Tate will not move to South Dakota from his Oklahoma City home, but will "be doing a whole lot of traveling over the next three years," he said.

"What it means for the composers is the ability to travel and

confer with some of the nation's most brilliant musicians. We can see what each are doing and share ideas about how to serve our orchestras and communities at so many levels it is difficult to count," Mr. Tate said. "The opportunities are endless."

Beginning in 2017, the Music Alive program prioritizes collaborative work and immersive experiences for composers, orchestra musicians, and artistic leadership and community members. Music Alive hopes to demonstrate – through active partnership with the participating residency pairings – the power and value of living composers working at the

center of American orchestras, officials said.

About Jerod Impichchaachaaha’ Tate

Praised and honored for "his ability to effectively infuse classical music with American Indian nationalism" (*Washington Post*), Mr. Tate was born in Norman, Okla., and is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.

He is dedicated to the development of American Indian classical composition. His commissioned works have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and Chorus, Detroit

Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Canterbury Voices, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Colorado Ballet, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Philadelphia Classical Symphony and Santa Fe Desert Chorale.

He is a three-time commission recipient from the American Composers Forum and he received a 2011 Emmy Award for his work on the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority Documentary, *The Science of Composing*.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Young Chickasaw artist finds her ‘eye works’ are creating a market



Chickasaw artist Risa Grant shows art she created over the last several years. The piece she is holding is a painting on newspaper decoupage and was purchased recently by an art lover. She also has painted a Native American for the Tishomingo yearbook along with other pieces focusing on her love of drawing eyes and facial features.

TISHOMINGO, Okla. – Poets have posited for centuries eyes are windows to a person's soul. A fledgling Tishomingo artist embraces that sentiment. “I began drawing eyes when I was in the sixth grade,” 17-year-



STUART BLAKE STEPHENSON

Chickasaw graduates with honors from UNT

Stuart Blake Stephenson, a Chickasaw, of Sanger, Texas graduated from The University of North Texas on December 17, 2016 with a bachelor's degree in finance. He proudly graduated cum laude with honors carrying a 3.761 grade point average (GPA). Mr. Stephenson has been employed as a revenue auditor with WinStar Casino since 2013. In the future he plans to pursue a master's degree in business administration.

Chickasaw girl wins martial arts competition



SKYLAR IDELL

A Chickasaw girl has recently won two martial arts competitions. Thirteen-year-old Skylar Idell competed in the Texas Grappling Challenge state finals championship Jan. 7 in Austin, Texas. She won first place in both gi and no gi. Skylar has been training in Brazilian jiu jitsu for about three years. She trains at the Genesis Jiu Jitsu in River Oaks, Texas. She is the daughter of Kim Idell.

School senior said. “Even after all that, I didn't see my art as ‘good.’ I remember tearing up drawings and throwing them away because they didn't meet standards I envisioned as ‘good enough!’” Risa discovered her talent was good enough. She recently sold her first piece of art.

LOSSES INSPIRE AN ARTIST Five years ago, Risa's aunt passed on leaving the family without “our rock, our foundation.” Lisa Davis' death rocked the family and Risa fell into depression. She started a painting that would change how she perceived herself and her art. The painting, which was purchased recently, was created around 2014. It is a decoupage of newspaper articles with a haunting female face – all in black – painted on it. None of Risa's art is titled, but she explained her painting and the emotions of creating it.

“So much of what you read and see in media is what people want you to believe and see,” she said. “It is not reality, or should I say not the whole story. The sum of a person's life on Earth is personal. No one can say how important it really is. It is something that is felt. I know my sister, Michaela, and I fought a lot before Aunt Lisa's death. When she passed, we understood family is the key to most everything and we are very close now.”

Michaela Grant is 21 and participates in the Chickasaw Nation's School-to-Work program at Tishomingo Head Start while attending Murray State.

About a year after her aunt passed, a classmate was tragically killed in an accident. “(His) passing hit me pretty hard,” Risa said. “It didn't seem real.”

The watercolor painting dedicated to her classmate's memory resembles a Mardi Gras mask, but Risa assures the observer it isn't. It is the embodiment of her emotions at having lost a friend. The eyes are sad and deeply set within the painting. The work seems startlingly unfinished, yet complete at the same time.

Risa points out her friend's life was truncated as well.

AWAITING THE FUTURE This May, Risa will graduate high school. The daughter of Diane Davis, a Chickasaw working as a medical support technician at Tishomingo Clinic, and Michael Grant, a Chickasaw electrician from Madill, Okla., Risa is debating whether to attend college in Alva or Tahlequah, Okla.

She will major in graphic arts and will be looking at other ways to express herself artistically – photography appeals to her – but now Risa intends to display her art at shows and festivals. Her confidence is high. Although she does not paint or draw much Indian-themed art, she has found a niche' and intends to create opportunities with it. Her watercolor painting of an Indian warrior was printed in last year's Tishomingo yearbook. Risa was hoping for the cover, but is satisfied her effort made it into the annual's pages. She is broadening her talents by “getting out of my comfort zone,” she said laughing. “I am painting more landscapes and scenes with trees. I love painting trees.” In the next five years, Risa en-

visions a career – probably in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area – performing graphic design as a primary living and showing art at festivals and juried shows. Risa attends core classes at Murray State. Her American College Testing (ACT) score and grade point average allow her to begin college while still a high school senior. She is not ruling out a career as a full time artist. “The thought of that appeals to me now where it didn't just a year ago,” Risa said. “I can see myself working equally in art and graphic design. I am pretty laid back and go with the flow. “It will be difficult to attend college full time and continue to draw as much as I do now, but I will make the time.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Chickasaw actress credits theatre with shaping her life

Chickasaw citizen Tabitha Littlefield has been leaving her heart on the stage for 15 years in more than 100 theatre performances. Her hard work, passion and experience in theatre have motivated her to teach youth and to give back to the community with each performance.

“I think theatre really has changed my life,” Ms. Littlefield said. “As a young child, I don't feel as if I was as empathic and open as other people would be, until I lived in someone else's shoes for a night. Acting also taught me not to place judgement on others, because you don't know their upbringing or circumstances they are facing in life.”

Ms. Littlefield found her passion for theatre at an early age.

When she was only eight, she starred in a church musical, “Zacchaeus.” Her parents noticed her love and talent for acting. That summer, they placed her in a summer acting camp at Clark's Theatre in Tulsa. The first production she did for Clark Theatre was “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.”

She is now inspiring youth and passing down her knowledge as an acting teacher for Clark's Theatre.

“It's been rewarding to go from being a camper to a mentor and teacher for Clark's Theatre,” Ms. Littlefield said. “I got a wonderful opportunity to return to the theatre I grew up in, to become a mentor to youth aspiring to perform.”

Ms. Littlefield has been cast in numerous professional theatre production including Shakespeare's “Romeo and Juliet,” “The Wizard of Oz,” “Alice in Wonderland,” “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” “The Jungle Book” and “The Drunkard.”

In a recent Tulsa Theatre production of “Cabaret,” she was cast in the lead role of Sally Bowles. The production received remarkable reviews from Tulsa area



Tabitha Littlefield will portray Queenie in the prohibition musical “Andrew Lippa's Wild Party,” Feb. 17-26 at Theatre Pops in Tulsa.

newspapers. She has also performed in a Cherokee musical about Nancy Ward called “Nanyehi.” She believes her love for performing and telling stories comes from her Indian heritage. “I have been doing research about Chickasaw storyteller, TeA-ta and discovering the impact she had on the Chickasaw community, as well as the theatre community,” Ms. Littlefield said. Her passion for theatre does not involve money or expanding her notoriety. “I'm not doing it for the money or the fame,” Ms. Littlefield said. “It really is just about how many lives can you reach. Making the audience relate to somebody on the stage.”

A strong supporter of her community, surrounding organizations and national charities, she has donated proceeds earned from her productions.

She and five friends also founded their own theatre company. All ticket sales proceeds went to a Tulsa community organization. “I always experience something that I love, which is performing,” Ms. Littlefield said. “I want to give back. I don't want to just perform. I want it to mean something.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw man and wife look to future



DALLIN and MIKAYDA PARKER

A Chickasaw man and his wife are finishing school and professional preparations in New York as they look to the future. Dallin Parker is in his last semester at the University of Utah and will graduate this spring with a strategic communications degree. His is currently serving an internship with a New York social media company and completing his final college hours. Mr. Parker's wife, Mikayda, recently graduated from Brigham

Young University with a juris doctorate and a master's degree in public administration. She is currently studying for the New York bar exam. She is also applying for admission seeking to complete her doctorate. The Parkers, along with Mr. Parker's parents, visited the Chickasaw Nation last fall for the Chickasaw Festival and Annual Meeting. All agreed the Chickasaw Cultural Center was the highlight of the visit.

Lisa Billy delivers Southeastern address



Chickasaw Nation legislator Lisa J. Billy served as guest speaker at December's Native American graduation ceremony and reception at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Southeastern president Sean Burrage, right, presented Mrs. Billy with a flute on behalf of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Pictured at left is Native American Institute Executive Director Dr. Bruce King.



Chickasaw shows Reserve Supreme Breeding Gilt

Chickasaw citizen Sheldon Buchanan, 15, shows his Reserve Supreme Breeding Yorkshire Gilt at the 2016 Tulsa State Fair. Sheldon is a member of the Yukon (OK) Future Farmers of America. He is the son of Scott and Marla Buchanan, and grandson of Larry Buchanan, all of Yukon. He is the great-great-grandson of Minnie Rose James, who is listed on the Dawes Rolls.

Creating opportunities to work, live safely and happily

Tribal child care assistance changing lives of young Chickasaw families



Child care is the single largest household expense for many families. The Chickasaw Nation Child Care Assistance Grant changed the quality of life for the Fish family. Ashley and Bruce Fish gather with their four children, Bruce, 7 months, Hannah, 3, Haley, 2, and Kingston, 6.

While most are sleeping soundly in the wee hours of the morning, Ashley and Bruce Fish rise. With four children, two boys and two girls ages six months to six years, their typical day begins at 5 a.m. The couple needs ample time to change diapers, wash up, brush hair, feed and take care of the many little things to get their children, and themselves, ready for the day.

With chores complete, the couple takes a few minutes to get ready for work before loading the kids into cars headed for school and day care. According to Mrs. Fish, affordable day care has changed her family's life. For many households, child care

can be the largest line item in a family's budget. With four children under age of 12, daycare costs could easily exceed \$1,500 a month.

"Before I learned of the child-care assistance provided to Native Americans by the Chickasaw Nation, I worked two jobs," Mrs. Fish said. "One to cover bills, the other for day care costs. When we received (child care) assistance, I was able to quit waitressing at night."

Mrs. Fish attributes her academic success and career directly to child care assistance. With the high cost of child care offset by programs administered by the Chickasaw Nation, she had time

to complete both bachelor's and master's degrees at East Central University in Ada, Okla.

"With day care costs covered, I was able to take a part time job and go to college," she said. "I had wanted to go to college, but didn't think I was going to be able to be able to pay my bills and go to school at the same time. Child care assistance freed up most of our family's disposable income and allowed me to better my life. I am proud to have earned my master's degree."

When first accepted into the child care assistance program, Mrs. Fish was presented a variety of options, each tailored to fit an individual family's needs and circumstances. Center-based care centers, family child care providers located in homes, and relative providers are among the options for care.

"All of my children have gone to the Chickasaw Nation Child Care Center," she said. "For me, they offer more than what smaller centers or home day care centers do. My children get to go on field trips, to go different places. Parents are invited to be active with the children during these trips. The center is hands-on, and I am able to visit them whenever I would want."

Mrs. Fish works for the Chickasaw Nation as a child care specialist. She works with Indian parents to find the right childcare solutions for them.

She uses her own experiences to mentor others.

"I tell clients my experiences," she said. "I tell them that as long as they have child care assistance they need to keep going (to school or work). I get personal. I tell them that we are here to help, and if I can finish school and work, they can too. I tell them they are going to save hundreds of dollars a

Basket weaving class offered Feb. 25 in Tishomingo

TISHOMINGO, Okla. - The Chickasaw Council House Museum is offering a basket weaving class from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25 at 209 N. Fisher in Tishomingo. Supplies will be provided.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw National Capitol at (580) 371-3351.

Chickasaw Explorers' homeland trip in May

Chickasaw citizens between the ages of 18 and 35 can apply now to attend a two-week expedition to the Chickasaw homeland. The trip is set for May 22 - June 3.

Chickasaw heritage will be studied and many historic and cultural sites explored.

This experience will train young leaders to identify and record ancient artifacts, participate in archaeological surveys and excavation. Students will search for the site of the 1541 encounter with Hernando de Soto.

Applications can be found at www.chickasaw.net/chickasaw-explorers. Deadline to apply is March 31. This trip is sponsored by Chickasaw Nation Heritage Preservation.

For more information, contact Catie Hamilton at (580) 272-1286 or catie.hamilton@chickasaw.net.



Child care providers who participate in the Chickasaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program are required to meet stringent state licensing requirements. The Chickasaw Nation offers additional training and support to child care staff, as well as educational grants to improve facilities and educational opportunities. Hanna, Kingston, Bruce and Haley learn are learning through play at one of the nearly 100 childcare providers who participate in the program.

month. That kind of money is life changing."

Child care providers who participate in the Chickasaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program are required to meet Oklahoma's Department of Human Services (OKDHS) licensing requirements. Child care centers and home daycares are rated from one to three stars. Two-star programs exceed basic licensing standards set by OKDHS. Three-star locations are nationally accredited and meet federal Head Start Performance Standards.

To work at a licensed day care center or home day care, individual caregivers are required to be licensed through the State of Oklahoma. Employees receive training each year and undergo rigorous national background checks based on fingerprints. State employees inspect licensed centers three times a year, ensuring minimum requirements for health, safety and training are maintained.

In addition to the state requirements, the Chickasaw Nation Day Care Assistance Program also sends its staff to locations where child care assistance is provided. The Chickasaw Nation's staff of-

fers free or reduced cost training to caregivers. Grants are also provided to care centers by the Chickasaw Nation to improve the quality of child care.

About The Chickasaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program

The Chickasaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program has been in existence for nearly 30 years. More than 6,200 Indian children have benefited from the service since 1995.

In 2016, the program grew 25 percent over the previous year. It served 489 Native American families and 749 individual children. Child care providers included 49 licensed centers, 16 licensed homes and 30 unlicensed relatives. Each location was visited by Chickasaw Nation employees and the program awarded 65 quality grants to improve the quality of childcare.

All Native Americans are encouraged to apply for childcare assistance. Eligibility for the program is based on household size, income and the needs of the applicant. Applicants must be working or attending school. For more information, call Sandra Manuel (580) 421-7711.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Youth Storytelling Workshop in March

ADA, Okla. - A Chickasaw Youth Storytelling Workshop is set for 8:30 a.m. to noon, March 14-15, at the Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities building, 201 N. Broadway in Ada.

The class is open to students ages eight through 13.

Students will learn the tools necessary for storytelling including prediction, sequencing, comprehension, story structure and

recall. Students will create a short three-to-five-minute digital story on the computer.

The workshop will be followed by a Tellabration Story Concert March 10, 6 p.m.

Seating is limited. Deadline for application is March 10.

For more information, contact Stephanie Scott at (580) 272-5520, ext. 60072 or Stephaine.Scott@chickasaw.net

Anoli' Creative Writing Contest deadline Feb. 28

Attention young writers!

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is accepting entries for the 2017 Anoli' Creative Writing Contest. The topic for 2017 is "Standing My Ground as a 21st Century Chickasaw."

Writers will be divided into three age groups: grades six-eight, grades nine-12 and young adults through age 24.

Winners will receive cash prizes and medals. Entries can be poetry, short story or essay.

Deadline for contest application is Feb. 28.

For contest info, visit www.chickasaw.net/AnoliContest.

For more information, call (580) 272-5520 or email rachel.stick@chickasaw.net.

Youth Art Month celebration March 11

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities will celebrate Youth Art Month from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 11 at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center, 700 N Mississippi Ave., in Ada.

This year's theme "United through Art" will feature interactive art booths, dance breaks, martial arts demonstrations, snacks, games and more.

Every March, Arts & Humanities hosts the carnival-like event

to celebrate National Youth Art Month to advocate for the Arts.

Established in 1961, Youth Art Month is sponsored by The Council for Art Education, Inc., and the Art & Creative Materials Institute to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or email Gwen.Postoak@Chickasaw.net.

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February is American Heart Month

Heart disease is the leading cause of death of men and women in the U.S. However, it can often be prevented by making healthy choices, such as quitting or not using commercial tobacco.

It is never too late to quit. If heart disease is already a problem, years of life can be gained by quitting smoking now. The risk for a heart attack drops sharply one year after quitting smoking. After two to five years, a smoker's chance of stroke could fall to about the same as a nonsmoker's.

February is American Heart Month. Do something wonderful for your heart. Consider replacing commercial tobacco with a heart-healthy activity.

Talk to a doctor about quitting, ask for free patches or lozenges, or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free advice and support. Experienced

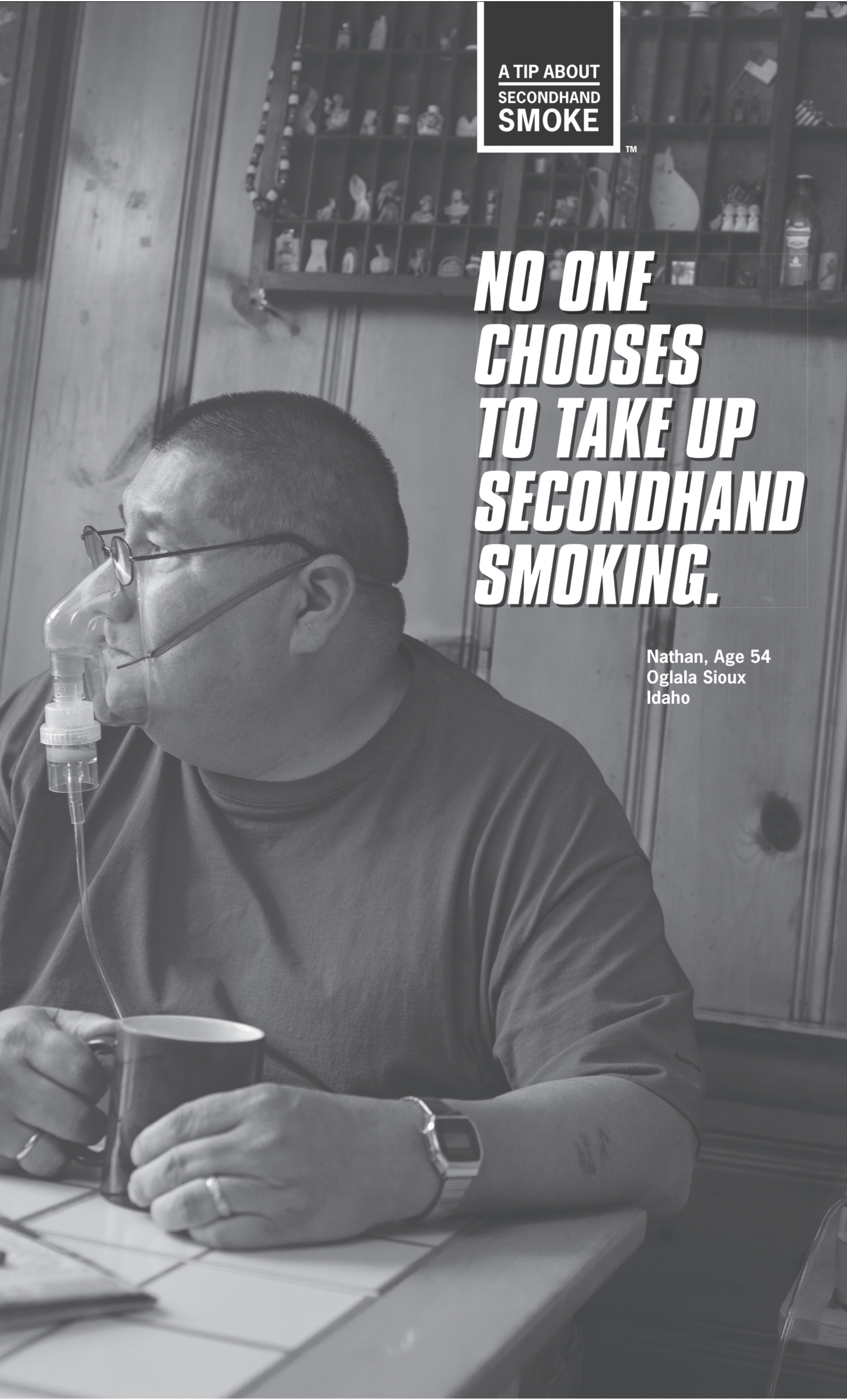
counselors are available to help those who wish to quit by working together to make a quit plan. You don't have to quit on your own.

'Love Stories Concert, Mini Canvas Paint' set for Feb. 9 in Ada

ADA, Okla. - A "Love Stories Concert and Mini Canvas Paint," is set for 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9 at the Arts & Humanities building, 201 N. Broadway in Ada.

This free event will feature storytelling by Lorie Carmichael, Stephanie Scott and Dixie Brewer.

For more information, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or artistinfo@chickasaw.net.



A TIP ABOUT
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TM

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SMOKING.***

Nathan, Age 54
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Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
[CDC.gov/tips](https://www.cdc.gov/tips)

Former Speaker Shannon accepts Harvard fellowship



T.W. SHANNON

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – T.W. Shannon, a Chickasaw citizen and former Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, has accepted a fellowship with Harvard University.

Mr. Shannon was named a Spring Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics (IOP). He will join the IOP in

spring 2017, according to a Harvard University news release.

He will interact with students, develop and lead weekly study groups, and participate in the intellectual life of the Harvard community. The program is an integral part of the IOP's dual commitment to encourage student interest in public service and increase interaction between the academic and political communities.

Mr. Shannon is chairman of Future Majority Project, a Republican State Leadership Committee endeavor that seeks to identify, recruit, train and support candidates who better reflect the full diversity of America, according to its website.

“Our Spring Fellows offer our undergraduates and the Harvard community a great range of expertise and leadership experience in foreign policy, national security, state governance and White House-policy-making,” IOP director Maggie Williams said.

Mr. Shannon served six years as an Oklahoma legislator, 2007-2013, and one year as House Speaker, 2013-2014.

Lighthorse Police visit area schools



More than 200 school children from Thackerville (OK) School attended a recent K9 demonstration by Chickasaw Lighthorse Police. The demonstration put on display the effectiveness and importance of working with trained dogs to fight crime. Chickasaw Lighthorse Police officers Billy Bond, Michael Holloway, Justin Smith and Capt. Daimon Alexander were on hand to answer questions and illustrate to students how dogs can subdue suspects, search for narcotics and perform patrol duties. Lighthorse officials visited the schools as part of Red Ribbon Week, a nationally-recognized program that promotes healthy living by participants refusing to partake of illegal narcotics and alcohol.

Kullihoma turkey hunt applications due March 20

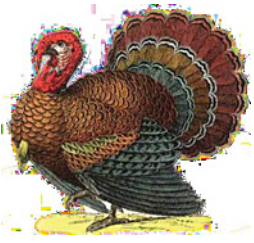
The deadline to apply for a special permit for the Adult Spring Turkey Hunt and the Youth Spring Turkey Hunt at Kullihoma is fast approaching.

Permit requests may be picked up at the Chickasaw Nation Conservation and General Ranger Department, 221 N. Rennie, Ada, Okla., or you can call (580) 310-6466 to request an application. All permit requests must be completed and returned to the department no later than 5 p.m. on March 20.

Dates for the Spring Turkey Hunt are April 6 through May 6. Toms may be taken with a bow and arrow or shotgun.

The is a 1-tom limit at Kullihoma.

Dates for the Special Youth Hunt are April 1 and 2. All youth hunters must be 17-years old or younger and are encouraged to have completed the Oklahoma Hunter Education Class. Youth hunters must be accompanied at all times by an adult during the hunt. Youth hunters may take



Special Permit Request

Spring Turkey Hunt on Tribal Land --- Kullihoma

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Vehicle: Car--- or--- Truck

Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

Year: _____ Tag #: _____ Emergency Contacts# _____

Must include copy of your CDIB

*If the request if for a youth please designate by writing **YOUTH** at the top of request.*

one tom with bow and arrow or shotgun.

All harvested turkeys must be reported to the Ranger Department, (580) 310-6466.

For questions, please call the Ranger Department at (580) 310-6466.



Chickasaw Lighthorse officers Michael Holloway and John Sherbert visited Hayes Elementary School in Ada, Okla., recently to conduct a K9 demonstration concerning narcotics detection and patrol work. The event was part of Red Ribbon Week at area schools. Approximately 50 Hayes students took part in the activities. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated nationally and promotes healthy living by youngsters who pledge not to partake of illegal drugs or alcohol.

Chickasaw Business Directory

The Chickasaw Business Directory identifies existing businesses owned, controlled and operated by Chickasaw citizens. This allows potential business opportunities among Chickasaw citizens.

Chickasaw citizens are encouraged to review the Chickasaw Business Directory when shopping for products or services, and promote business among Chickasaws.

The directory can be assessed online at www.chickasawbusinessregistry.com.

For more information, contact Daniel Melton at (580) 310-7908 or daniel.melton@chickasaw.net.

Adult Learning Program provides assistance in-boundary, at-large

The Chickasaw Nation Adult Learning Program provides academic assistance to adults residing within the Chickasaw Nation who want to earn a General Equivalency Development (GED) diploma.

The program serves all adults ages 18 and up. Preference is given first to Chickasaw citizens, then to other Native Americans with a valid CDIB and referring agency.

Outside the Chickasaw Nation boundaries, the Adult Learning program provides the cost of GED testing fees for Chickasaw citizens.

Classes are located in Ada and Ardmore, Okla.

To learn more, call (580) 421-7711.

Student Tutoring Reimbursement available

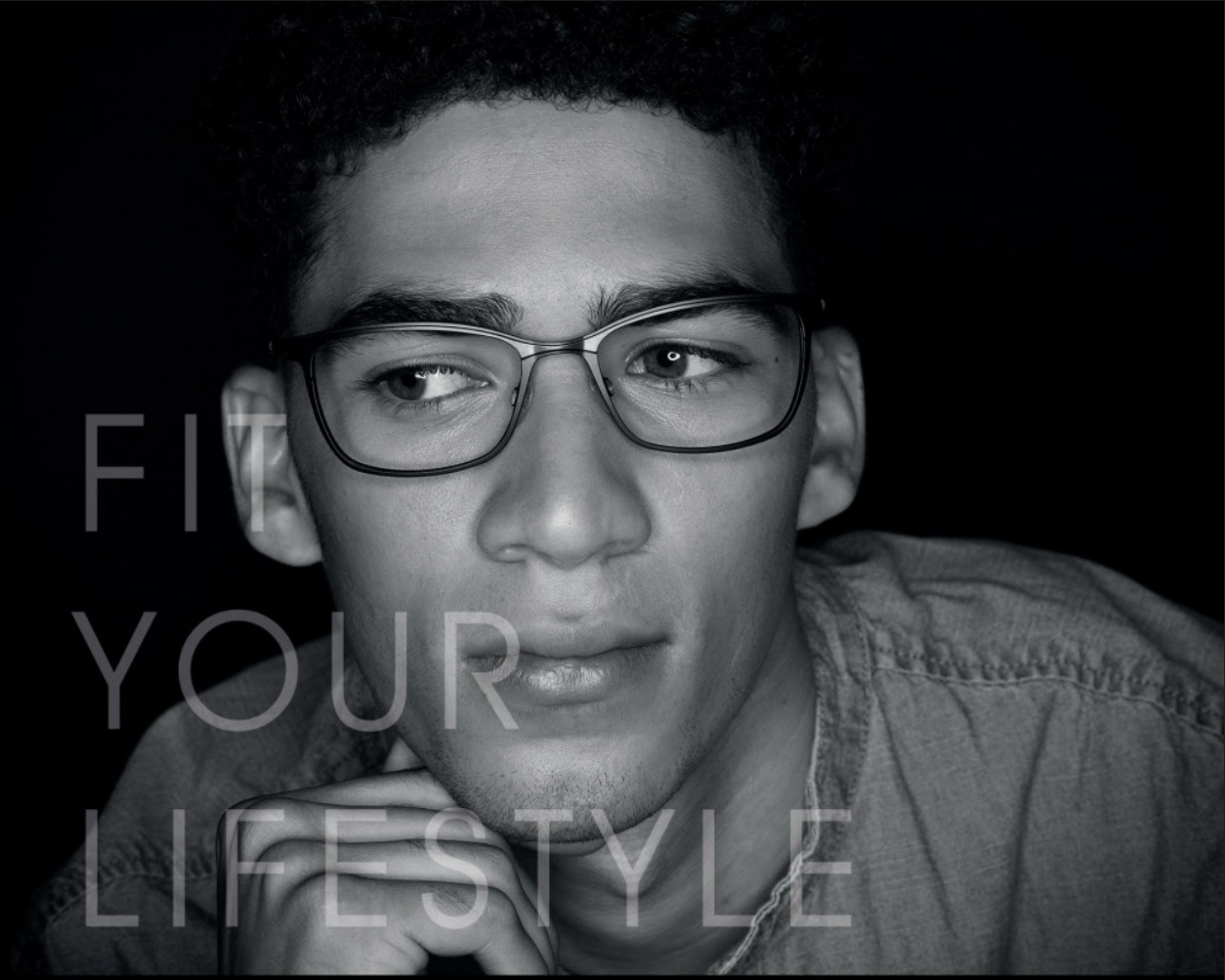
The Chickasaw Nation Student Tutoring Reimbursement Program provides Chickasaw students assistance to improve academic performance.

Eligible students in grades one through 12 must be on an individual education plan (IEP) or at risk of failing the subject for which assistance is being requested. A referral letter from a teacher or school official must be provided.

Students will need to provide: Chickasaw citizenship card Student Tutoring Reimbursement Program Application Tutoring Allowance Assistance Log Copy of student's grade report Proof of IEP And/or referral letter from teacher or school official Tutoring invoice (indicating payment received.)

Applications can be found at <https://www.chickasaw.net/Services/Student-Tutoring-Reimbursement-Program>.

For more information, call (580) 421-7711.



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Chickasaw Citizen

Exhibit runs through March 31

Beautiful quilts on display at Chickasaw Cultural Center



Two quilts made by Pauline Brown, a fluent speaker of the Chickasaw language, and a quilt made by Irene Seeley (middle) are displayed at the Chickasaw Cultural Center's celebration of quilts and the important part they played in the life of Native Americans. Quilts hand-stitched by about a dozen Chickasaw women will be displayed at the Aapisa' Art Gallery through March 31. The center is located in Sulphur and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

SULPHUR, Okla. – Quilts with intricate designs handcrafted and stitched by Chickasaw elders are among those on exhibit through March 31 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

Some quilts were crafted by ancestors spanning generations, helping tell the story of a family's history. One quilt displayed in the

exhibit has been a treasured keepsake in a Chickasaw family for more than 100 years. Betsy Childs' great-great-grandmother, Betsy Porter Illetewahke Hawkins, started the "Flying Geese" quilt in 1907. It was finished by Mrs. Childs' great-grandmother, Caroline Illetewahke Hawkins Milligan, for her graduation in 1978. Mrs. Childs said "it means a



PAULINE BROWN



CHICKASAW CITIZENS

UPDATE
YOUR
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Update your contact information to stay connected and receive important information from the Chickasaw Nation.

Having a current address helps us respond when citizens are affected by natural disasters or weather emergencies.

To access a change of address form online, visit www.Chickasaw.net/AddressChange or call toll free at (888) 661-0137

lot" for her to have a quilt that was started by her great-great-grandmother, for whom she was named. The quilt holds memories precious to her family's history.

Chickasaws have used and made quilts since settlers moved through the Chickasaw homelands in what is now Mississippi. Some families included them among the limited possessions they were able to carry on the removal to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

Quilts were used in numerous ways to stay warm cold weather. They served as bed covers and makeshift shawls, and sometimes even helped keep cool drafts out of the home.

"My grandmother quilted out of necessity," Nancy Bradshaw, who contributed quilts and squares to the exhibit, said. "They had to have quilts for winter and had no money to go out and buy any."

Quilts were used for so many purposes it was easy for them to become worn. When quilts or blankets became tattered, they were often patched, combined with other blankets. In some, each bit of exterior cloth or interior stuffing represented a well-used blanket or a dress or shirt from a family member.

One Chickasaw woman even found an entire woman's dress while repairing an old family quilt.

Family history was recorded in each stitch, making the quilt something that would be passed down from generation to generation.

"It's a tradition that you learn from your mother and grandmother," Chickasaw elder and quilter Pauline Brown said. "They were great sewers."

Quilts can take on any design the quilt maker wishes. Some popular Chickasaw quilt designs include the Indian girls and boys and animals with their Chickasaw names. The quilt exhibit includes those designs and much more, including double wedding ring designs and quilts that have been created uniquely by the artist.

"Quilting is something that if you want to finish it you've got to stay with it. It takes a while," Chickasaw elder Rose Shields-Jefferson said. "In the end it's worth it, because you're going to



Betsy Childs stands next to her great-great-grandmother's quilt. Betsy Porter Illetewahke Hawkins, started the "Flying Geese" quilt in 1907.



NANCY BRADSHAW



ROSE JEFFERSON

SEE QUILT EXHIBIT, PAGE 15



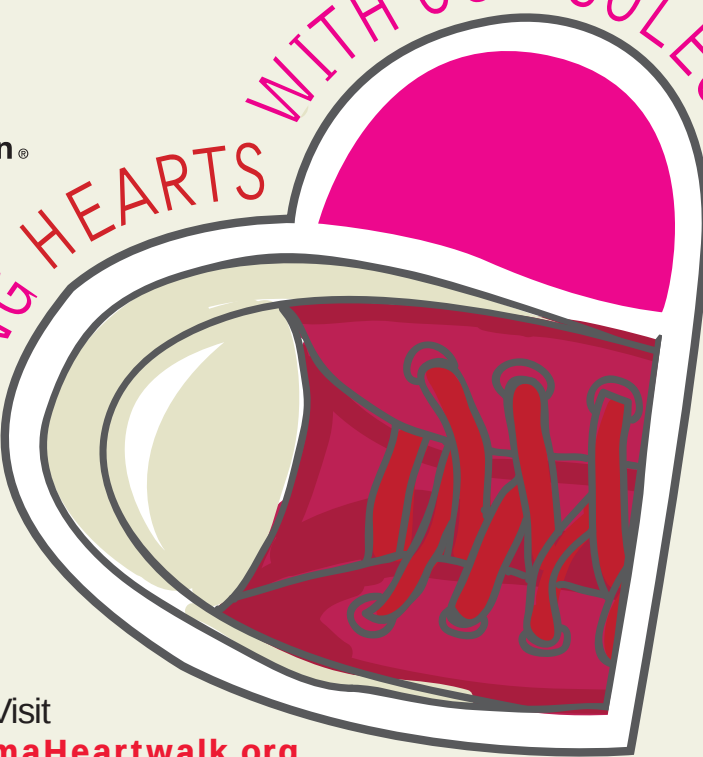
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American Stroke Association

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DECEMBER 2016 LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
December 16, 2016

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Chairperson Pro Tempore Toby Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.
AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL
Members present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott
Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
Members absent: Katie Case, David Woerz
Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel
Guests present: Gene Lehmann, Mary Jo Green, Michael L. Wingo
Chairperson Pro Tempore Perkins appointed Ms. Nancy Elliott to serve as the Secretary Pro Tempore.

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION
Invocation was given by Ms. Billy.
AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES - November 18, 2016
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. McManus to approve the minutes of November 18, 2016. Mrs. Alexander noted a correction on the motion and second on GR34-004. Ms. Briggs amended her motion to reflect the correction.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
11 yes votes
The motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2016, as amended, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS
There was no unfinished business.
AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
(A) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Connie Barker
GR34-012, Resolution Changing the Date for Legislative Session, January 2017
This resolution changes the Legislative Session for January, 2017 from the third Friday of January to the second Friday of January. The change is needed because the third Friday coincides with the United States Inauguration Day and several Legislators will be in Washington, D.C. that day. It also necessitates the cancellation of the Committee of the Whole meeting for January, 2017. Announcements will be made on the web site to inform the public.
This resolutions is deemed as an “Emergency” because it is needed immediately and it was created after the first Friday of the month.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Billy to approve GR34-012.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR34-012 carried unanimously.
Ms. Barker concluded her report.
(B) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Linda Briggs
General Resolution Number 34-006, Natural Gas Utility Easement in Johnston County
This resolution approves a utility easement to Oklahoma Natural Gas Company. The utility easement shall permit ONG, its successors and assigns, an easement and right of way to lay, maintain, operate, relay and remove a pipeline, with fittings, tie-overs, catholic protection equipment and other appurtenant appliances, with the right of ingress and egress to and from the same, over, and through certain lands situated in the County of Johnston, State of Oklahoma, so long as same are used or needed for the distribution of natural gas. Should the Grantee remove its property from the premises and abandon the right of way granted, the rights granted in the easement shall terminate. The easement is necessary to facilitate the improvement projects along 6th Street in Tishomingo.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR34-006.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR34-006 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 34-007, Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County (Lot 6)
This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation’s request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, for the Chickasaw Nation to be additional to

the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Campus. The property location is 401 West 7th Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR34-007.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR34-007 carried unanimously.
General Resolution Number 34-008, Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County (Lot 7)
This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation’s request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, for the Chickasaw Nation to be additional to the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Campus. The property location is 403 West 7th Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve GR34-008.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR34-008 carried unanimously.
General Resolution Number 34-009, Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County (Lots 4, 5 & 6)
This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation’s request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, for the Chickasaw Nation to be additional to the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Campus. The property location is 505 West 7th Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mr. Colbert to approve GR34-009.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR34-009 carried unanimously.
General Resolution Number 34-010, Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County (Lot 8)
This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation’s request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, for the Chickasaw Nation to be additional to the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Campus. The property location is 405 West 7th Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.
A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Hammond to approve GR34-010.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR34-010 carried unanimously.
General Resolution Number 34-011, Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County (Lots 7 & 8)
This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation’s request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, for the Chickasaw Nation to be additional to the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Campus. The property location is 503 West 7th Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Barker to approve GR34-011.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR34-011 carried unanimously.
Ms. Briggs concluded her report.
AGENDA ITEM #7 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)
There was no new business to discuss or comments from citizens.
Chairperson Pro Tempore Perkins announced the Judicial reception and the elder’s Christmas luncheon.
AGENDA ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT
The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:24 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Elliott Secretary Pro Tempore Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature
Prepared by: **Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole
January 9, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, David Woerz
Absent: Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond

OBITUARIES

Goldie Jewel Campbell



Goldie Jewel Campbell entered this life on August 22, 1931 at Woodville, Okla., born to Russell and Nancy (Burris) Neasbitt. She went home to be with her Lord and Savior on January 2, 2017 at Alliance Health Hospital in Durant, Okla., at the age of 85 years. Funeral services were January 5, 2017 at the Brown’s Funeral Service Chapel in Durant, with Jimmy Pratt and Jimmy Stegall officiating. Interment followed in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. She graduated from Cobb High School and later married the love of her life Leo Campbell on July 2 1949 at Sherman, Texas. They remained married for 67 years. She was a homemaker and ensured everything at home was well taken care of.

Mrs. Campbell was a faithful member of the Church of Christ in Caddo, Okla. She had countless hobbies but loved the outdoors the most, her hobbies included gardening, camping, fishing, playing dominoes and she really enjoyed being a member of the Chickasaw Nation. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell and Nancy (Burris) Neasbitt; her brothers and sisters, James, Aaron, Wilburn, Jessi, J.T, and Alene Perschica. She is survived by her husband, Leo Campbell, of Durant, Okla.; a son, Brian Campbell, of McKinney, Texas; nephews, Jerry Rowland and wife Brenda, Kenneth Rowland and wife Judy, David Rowland and wife Wanda, Michael Rowland and wife Marty, and Maxie Rowland all of Caddo, DeWayne Perschica, of Oklahoma City, Carl Perschica and wife Donna, Ronnie Perschica, Sonny Perschica and wife Debbie, all of Kingston, Okla., Jerry Perschica and wife Renee, of Oklahoma City, and Randy Neasbitt and wife Darla, of Ardmore, Okla.; nieces, Donna Jobe and husband Noble, of Eufaula, Okla., Polly Oropeza and husband Richard, of Van Austin, Texas, Theresa Gibson and husband Carter, of Norman, Okla., Barbara Perschica and Linda Perschica, both of Kingston, Twila Neasbitt, of Ardmore, Gail Lewis of Borger, Texas, Tammy Forster of Canyon, Texas; and numerous other friends and loved

ones. Online Condolences can be made to the family at www.brownsfuneralservice.com

Nashoba Annmarie Womble

Nashoba Annmarie Womble, infant daughter of Charles Bryan and TaLeshia Marie Womble, passed away January 14, 2017, at Ardmore, Okla. Graveside services were January 19, 2017, at Troy Cemetery, Troy, Okla. She was preceded in death by her infant brother, Daiden La Voy Watters; great-great-grandfather, Charles Booth; and great-great-grandfather, Albert Bohannon. Nashoba is survived by her parents, Charles Bryan and TaLeshia Marie Womble, of the home; grandparents, Melissa Ann Hamilton and husband, Ricky, Shawn Womble, and Barry Alan Womble, and wife, Linda; great-grandparents, Gerrie Norton, Marion Norton, Johnnie Bohannon, and Darlene Gardner; great-great grandmother, Granny Perry; aunts, Savannah Mgbokweyi, Amanda Vanderburg and Piper Womble; great-aunt, Kristi Davis; uncles, J.D. Windham, Josh Womble and fiancée, Lexie Scorsone, Michael Womble, and Jake Smith, and wife, Brittney; God grandparents, Micheal and Medenna Walton. Condolences may be left at www.griffinhillcrest.com.

Jewell H. Bonner



Jewell H. Bonner passed away December 16, 2016 at the Kaiser Permanente Zion Hospital in San Diego, Calif. Burial was January 10, 2017 in the Miramar National Military Cemetery. She graduated from Murray College, Tishomingo, Okla., in the class of 1940 and moved to San Diego shortly after. Mrs. Bonner worked for General Dynamics, retiring after 30 years. She was truly a dedicated volunteer. Her service to First Presbyterian Church of San Diego was to teach a Sunday school class for 10 years, work in the nursery, and was a member of the Wedding Committee for 30 years. She was designated a “Woman of Dedication” by the Salvation Army. For the Navy League of the United States she served as San Diego Women’s Council President, Southern California State President, and Pacific Southwest Region President. She was inducted into the Navy League Hall of Fame

and received the Secretary of the Navy’s “Superior Public Service Award” and endowed the Jewell H. Bonner scholarship giving preference to American Indians. For the San Diego Zoological Society she served on the “Rendezvous In The Zoo” (R.I.T.Z) Committee every year since 1985, co-chairing the event in 1997. She endowed the Bonner Summer Fellowship at the San Diego Zoological Center for the Reproduction of Endangered Species (CRES). For Mecca Temple No 34, Daughter of the Nile it was her great pleasure to cut out patterns and sew layette and dolls for the children at the Shriner’s Hospitals. She is survived by her loving husband James Bonner of 46 years; a sister Maudie Hilton Long, Carson City, Nev.; and several nieces and nephews.

Robert Lesley Hamilton



Funeral Services for Mr. Robert Lesley Hamilton, 68, of Mill Creek, Okla., were December 31, 2016 at the Mill Creek High School Gymnasium with Brother Tony Poe officiating, assisted by Brother Randy Wade. Interment followed in the Mill Creek Cemetery. He passed away Dec. 27, 2016 at his home.

Mr. Hamilton was born March 9, 1948 at Talihina, Okla., to Joseph Hamilton and Euline (Emerson) Hamilton. He graduated from Mill Creek High School in 1967 and then attended and graduated from the Haskell Indian Jr. College in Lawrence, Kansas in 1969, with a certification in machinery.

He married Mae Shields on July 1, 1972 at Mill Creek, and they have lived there since that time.

He retired from US Silica in 2004. He coached the Mill Creek Chiefs Men's fast-pitch softball team for 30 years. He enjoyed spending time making Native American crafts and being with his family. He was also very proud of his granddaughters.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Steven Hamilton; and two nephews, Corey and Anthony Hamilton.

He is survived by his wife Mae, of the home; a daughter, Sherri Miller and husband Rick, of Ada, Okla.; two brothers, Leland Hamilton, of Duncan, Okla., and Jerry Hamilton of Mill Creek; two sisters, Linda Robins and Susan Hamilton, both of Ada; two grandchildren; numerous other relatives and friends.

Bearers for the service were Matt Clark, Clovis Hamilton, Rick Miller, Steve Jacob, Wesley McElhannon and Ronald Adudell. Honorary Bearers will be: Ray Dodd, Russell Bradley and Ed Lenard.

Online condolences may be made at clarkfuneralservice.net

Kaleb Michael Pershica



Kaleb Michael Pershica, D.Ph., went to be with the Lord unexpectedly while at his home in Monument, Colorado on November 25, 2016.

He was born April 20, 1977 at Oklahoma City to Jerry and Renee Pershica. He graduated in 1995 from Del City High and then in 2001 from SWOSU with a Doctorate of Pharmacy degree.

After graduation, Mr. Pershica wanted to find a location to practice pharmacy that matched his desire to explore the outdoors including hiking, hunting, skiing, and golfing. He found his place in Monument, Colorado. He worked at several Walgreens Pharmacies throughout his career. In 2008 he became the Pharmacy Manager at Walgreens store # 10456 where he was currently employed in Colorado Springs.

He was a direct descendant of Fred Pershica and Nancy Burris, both registered on the Dawes Roll. He was very proud of his

heritage and was one-quarter Chickasaw and a member of the Chickasaw Nation.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, John L. Cummings and Mary Louise Ake, M.F. and Alene Pershica.

He is survived by his wife Tonya Inge; his pride and joy daughter, Hannah Marie; parents Jerry and Renee Pershica; a brother Joshua Pershica and wife, Tammy and niece Julia Lee; parents-in-law Jack and Dagmar Armstrong; a brother-in-law Mark Armstrong and wife Tina; nephew Austin; and niece Ashley; aunts, uncles, cousins, and many close friends too numerous to mention.

Services to celebrate his life were Dec. 3, 2016 in Candlewood Chapel at Ford Funeral Service with burial following in Sunny Lane Cemetery.

To share a memory or condolence visit www.fordfuneral.com

Frances L. "Pinky" Rowe



Services for Chickasaw Elder Frances L. "Pinky" Rowe were January 17, 2017 at the Tishomingo (OK) First Assembly of God Church, officiated by Rev. John Harris and assisted by Rev. Cordell Hines and Mr. Dustin Rowe. Interment followed in Tishomingo City Cemetery.

Mrs. Rowe was born July 25, 1930 at Tishomingo to Molly Lorena and Thomas Jefferson Hughes. She passed away on Jan. 13, 2017 at the age of 86, in Madill, Okla.

She married Raymond V. "Ray" Rowe Nov. 22, 1947 at Prosser, Wash.

During the early years of their marriage, they lived throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada where she was a homemaker while he served as a construction purchasing agent. In 1969, they moved their family to Tishomingo where they purchased the Dairy Queen. Together they owned and operated Pinky's Dairy Queen for 42 years.

Mrs. Rowe was proud of her Chickasaw heritage. She was the granddaughter of original enrollee Mamie Cravatt Hughes, full blood Chickasaw Indian. She spoke fondly of her childhood on the banks of the Blue River, her grandmother's homestead allotment.

Mrs. Rowe was a member of the Tishomingo First Assembly of God Church where she served many years as president of the church's women's ministries. She spent many years in a bowling club with her sisters and daughter, and traveled throughout the United States in league bowling. She was an early volunteer at Johnston Memorial Hospital helping in the gift shop.

Mrs. Rowe enjoyed working the "lunch run" at the Dairy Queen and was often seen checking on customers in the dining room. The Rowe's employed hundreds of young people at the Dairy Queen over four decades, helping many pursue their education. She considered all Dairy Queen employees as her family and she enjoyed watching them grow and mature into successful adults.

She was preceded in death by five sisters and two brothers.

She is survived by her husband, Ray, of the home; a son Raymond T. Rowe and wife Brenda; and a daughter Cindy Lou McIver and husband, Mike, all of Tishomingo; four grandchildren, Christopher Rowe, of Hunstville, Texas, Carrie McCormick, of Mill Creek, Wash., Dustin Rowe, of Tishomingo, and Natasha Gray, of Tishomingo; a sister Linda Sweat, of Oklahoma City; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Ed Cook, Gary

Cook, Jimme Sweat, Robert Martin, Dylan Rowe, Price Rowe and Austin Vernon.

Honorary pallbearers are all former Dairy Queen employees.

Memorials may be given to the Tishomingo First Assembly of God church Women's Ministries.

Malon Lynn Ward



Malon Lynn Ward, 58, of Kingston, Okla., passed away January 14, 2017 at a hospital in Madill, Okla. He was born August 8, 1958 in Talihina, Okla., to the late Sam Ward and Francis Southerland Ward. He was raised in Burkburnett, Texas where he graduated high school in 1975.

He joined the U. S. Army and served two years before moving back to the Burkburnett and Wichita Falls area. He married Kim Kincade July 3, 1980 at Wichita Falls.

In 1987 he moved to Kingston, Okla., where he worked for the Kingston Public School, Marshall County water department and for the past 16 years at the OU Biological Station. He was a member of the Willis Baptist Church and the Christian Motorcycle Association Emmanuel riders. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, spending time with his family and sharing his faith. He never met a stranger.

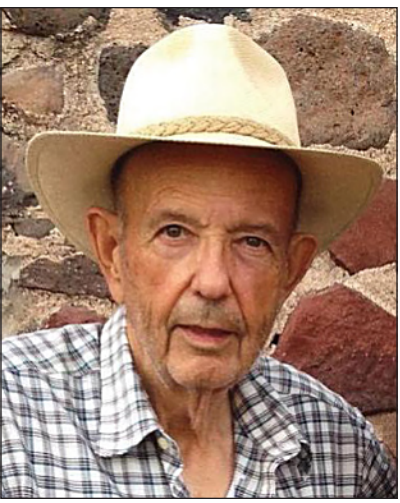
He is survived by his wife, Kim Ward, of Kingston; children, Jacob Ward and wife, Courtney, of Kingston, Joshua Ward and wife, Shawntice, of California; grandchildren, Jaylee and Tracer, of Kingston; a sister Linda Evans and husband, Don, Colorado Springs, Colo.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Ronnie and William Ward; and two, sisters, Brenda and Phyllis.

Memorial service was January 19, 2017 at Willis Baptist Church in Willis, Okla., with Brother Jerry Scott and Roger Brazil officiating.

Condolences may be sent to wattsfuneralhome.com.

Thomas (Tom) Robert Halsell



Thomas (Tom) Robert Halsell of Hatch, N.M. passed away on December 29, 2016 at the age of 80.

He was born December 24, 1936 in Durant, Okla., to T.E. Halsell and Jessie Darnell Halsell. The family moved to Galveston, Texas in 1942 and then to Garfield, N.M. in 1948.

He graduated from Hatch Valley High School in 1954 and worked in the valley doing various odd jobs until joining the U.S. Navy in 1956. After serving four years, he returned to New Mexico and attended the police academy. He worked as a patrolman for the Albuquerque Police Department from 1961 - 1966 and as a detective from 1966 -1968.

He married Shelby Kathryn Abel on April 6, 1962 in Albuquerque. In 1968, Tom, Shelby and their three children, Bob, Kathryn and Jessie returned to Hatch, where they owned and operated Halsell's Supermarket. After Shelby's death, he married Barbara Funk Halsell on April 11, 1990.

He was proud of his Chickasaw

Indian heritage. His father T.E. Halsell was an original enrollee of the Chickasaw Nation. He was a Christian and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Hatch since 1968.

Hr. Halsell enjoyed traveling with Barbara, cheering on his beloved Dallas Cowboys, cheering for all Hatch Bear sports, having morning coffee with friends, playing dominos and tinkering with his swimming pool. The couple's last trip in 2015 was to Oregon for Christmas where they spent the holiday with Kathryn and Jessie and their families.

Mr. Halsell loved Hatch and the Hatch Valley. He was a very active member of the Village of Hatch serving as Mayor of Hatch for one term and on the City Council for two terms. He was the co-chairperson of Inaugural Chile Festival Committee and served on the committee for seven years. He served as a Dona Ana Democratic Party Election Official and was appointed by Governor King to the State Police Board. He also served on the Rio Grande Natural Gas Board.

He was preceded in death by his parents, T.E. Halsell and Jessie Darnell Halsell; his first wife, Shelby K. Abel Halsell; and a son Robert (Bob) Halsell.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Funk Halsell; daughters Kathryn Anderson and husband, Dave, and Jessie Newton and husband, Jim; stepsons, Charles (Chuck) Watkins and wife, Vicki, Chris Watkins and wife, Cindy, and Corey Watkins; 14 grandchildren; a brother Bill Halsell; and nieces Anne Gentile and Joan Stasi.

Tom was loved and he will be missed.

QUILT EXHIBIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

appreciate it."

Today, Chickasaw artisans quilt for the same reason any other person quilts - artistic expression, as a blanket for warmth or as a gift. Quilts have evolved into an item that many Chickasaw families cherish.

Each quilt, handmade with love, contains precious memories making them unique to each Chickasaw family.

"My mother told me that I was making memories when I started quilting," Mrs. Bradshaw said with a smile. "I believe I am and I love doing it."

"It's something that you treasure. Something that your mom did and we are still carrying on what she taught us," Mrs. Jefferson said.

Pauline Brown, Rose Jefferson, Betsy Childs, Nancy Bradshaw, Jason Reed, Candice Blevins, Mary Watson, Charlie Nelson, Imogene Imotichey-Walker, the Holisso Research Center and members of the Chickasaw Language Committee were involved with contributing quilts and pieces to the exhibit.

Other contributors include the late Irene Seeley, Judy Smith, Victoria Bradshaw, Nathamay Brown-Smith, Minnie Shields, Betty Dodd and Dorothy Bailey David.

Don't miss the opportunity to experience the stories that these quilts tell in their own subtle way.

The Chickasaw Cultural Center is at 867 Charles Cooper Memorial Road, Sulphur, Oklahoma. For more information, call (580) 622-7130 or visit www.chickasawculturalcenter.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Mallory Jones, Media Relations.

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Chickasaw Cultural Center hosts Holiday Market



Billiard balls, coil spring become art

Nationally-acclaimed Chickasaw blade smith Daniel Worcester holds "Water Snake" at the Chickasaw Cultural Center Holiday Art Market Dec. 17. The blade was forged from an old motorcycle coil spring. The black and white handle is made from discarded billiard balls. The blade and handle are separated with sterling silver. Mr. Worcester said the creation reminded him of a snake winding its way down a river. The Ardmore, Okla., resident was joined by 15 other Chickasaw artists at a special show hosted by the cultural center.



Pottery, much more at Holiday Art Market

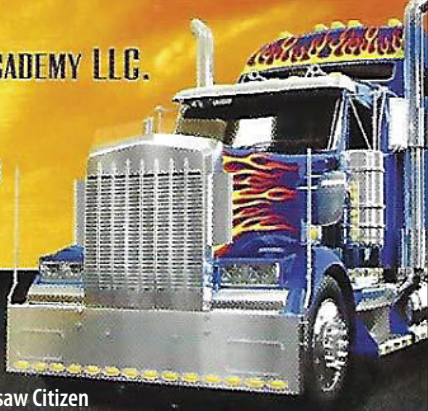
Master Chickasaw potter and artisan Joanna Underwood-Blackburn, left, enjoys visitors' reaction to her creations of clay baskets, Christmas tree ornaments and other clay-based artistry at the Dec. 17 Chickasaw Cultural Center Holiday Art Market. Many braved extremely cold weather to take part in the show. Sixteen Chickasaw artists were on hand with Native American-inspired paintings, jewelry, pottery, conch shells carved with intricate Chickasaw images, drums, flutes and fashion.

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